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## THE ELECTIONS.

It would be affectation to talk of minor matters, or the "business" which is before the moribund Parliament. The country has only one thought at present, and that is the Dissolution. On the conduct of the constituencies now depends a chapter of the history of England.

As for the Chinese question, it is absurd to suppose that a House can be elected on it alone. After all, compared with the whole interests of England, it is a little matter. People will probably condemn the low, violent policy, which has given such a nation a claim *pro tem.* to our national tenderness. They will express their hopes that we may establish order there again, with as little butchery as possible. But, after all, we are not going to set England about the ears *pro* or *con* Yeh. There are other questions to be settled—other provisions to be made. Yeh will be forgotten in six months; but in six months we shall have a Parliament, the character of which will determine our politics for six years. Let everybody fix his attention on that.

Are we to have a policy of non-intervention abroad, or no?—of social reform, or no? Are we to cut down military and naval expenses, or to keep up an army and navy on a more generous scale than before the last war? Are we to organise education—emigration? Are we to "draw the line" in matters of concessions to the Papists; or are we to take back concessions previously made? Are we to reform the state of the representation, or to leave it alone? These are the questions which press on the constituencies, and which we advise those which have any independence to press on the candidates. The cry of "measures, not men," is, in nine cases out of ten, as great cant as "Junius" declares it to be; but still it forms often your only way of testing a man, to insist on knowing what specific measures he will support.

It is appalling to think of the bathos and balderdash—the unmeaning vagueness—the purposely obscured humbug—which will be let loose on England in the course of the next few weeks! How ignorance and emptiness will roam the land! But the electors are prepared for this sort of thing, and have only themselves to blame if they get "represented" by quacks and dunces. Every new election

is a new chance. Let committees meet in every town, and put their candidates on a rack of far finer stretching power than has usually been employed. Of course, many batches of so-called free electors have no great choice—are led like sheep, or sold like bullocks; but still, considerable power of choice does exist, and ought to be better exercised. An increased definiteness, for instance, might be wholesomely demanded from candidates. Higginbotham is "attached to our Protestant institutions." Very well: let us now have his exact intentions about the Maynooth grant and the suffrage. Tomtit is for "keeping the illustrious Viscount Palmerston at the helm, to guide us through the tempest of European commotion." Loyal, no doubt, of Tomtit. Is he, then, prepared to give up reform, political or social, altogether, for the sake of impotent declarations of anger with Naples, tiffs with France, and uneasiness everywhere? Let him speak out on measures; and when we know what measures he is for, we shall be able to judge of the prudence of tying ourselves down to his men.

One of the oddest books of the day is "Dod"—and just because of the fine generalising tone of "opinions" therein registered. You cannot lay hold of the honourable member; his outline is as vague as that of his wife in her hoop. The greater and the more "enlarged" his views are, the more likely he is to become a supporter of the first government with indefinite views, and a good majority, which gets established. Many out-and-out theorists of progress have helped the Government to stand still. One—Mr. Ewart of Dumfries—coolly shirked the Chinese division altogether, the other day—afraid to vote for the Ministry or against them. Really, it is time that electors brought people to the scratch with some exactness; for while such loose professions are in vogue as have been lately, "independence" has been made a mere cloak for the power of voting anyhow, and division-lists have become unintelligible.

What is wanted is a strong government with a definite policy. We have often indicated the kind of policy best suited to the country now,—non-intervention abroad—a greater attention to colonial interests—and domestic reform measures. We believe that with

such a policy the dangers arising from our increasing population may in time be met, and the pressure on industry lightened. But members to carry out such a policy can never be got by attending to "cries"—especially to warlike cries. The truth is that, at bottom, these really, in nine cases out of ten, mean nothing. They involve no practical results,—only a dependence for party-purposes on the man whose interest it is to have them promulgated. For want of members pledged to distinct schemes of useful policy, we have seen session after session go by unproductive, disturbed, barren. Let us now ask our candidates—not who do you pretend to dismiss?—but what do you mean to try and get done? The leaders will soon try and accommodate themselves to the new position when the character of the new House becomes apparent.

The country is not likely to forget the services of statesmen during the war. "Honour to whom honour is due." But we do not see how a Ministry with a policy can be established on the vague admiration of past deeds. We have entered on a new era. We do not want a warlike policy. The Peace Society has exploded; Russia is checked; nobody of the least importance advocates wholesale disarming; and we really can afford to look at home a little. So if Higginbotham comes with a flourish about "The English Flag," bring him to the point. Do you want continuous irritation on the Continent, and indefinite hubbub at Hong Kong? If not, what? And don't you think we might as well reform the Horse Guards a little—improve education of officers—and take some notice of Tulloch and McNeill? Then we shall be ready for war (if such a sad necessity arise) some other time; and meanwhile, the more we can reasonably retrench the better. *Apropos* of this point, we do not advise electors to be very eager to choose military men in a larger proportion than is usually the case. The temptation is natural—and graceful too—just now; but a career of war, however glorious in its way, is not the best preparation for a career in the House of Commons.

The "definiteness" which we have recommended to electors as the thing to exact, will tend to give us a new House with a positive



THE ROTHSCHILD MARRIAGE: THE BRIDE.—(SEE PAGE 170.)



character one way or another. Very refreshing would it be, if, after our Liberals had told us what they meant to change, and our Conservatives what they meant to conserve, a House met settling their relative strengths definitely, and the country knew what to expect. The machine would then work regularly and healthily—the crotchety, the egotistic, and the bores, would be kept in some order—business would be got through—and the mind of England would be more cheerful and clear.

So much for our general views as inspired by the first prospect of the Dissolution. Our statesmen must sink minor differences, and coalesce with those with whom their affinities are nearest and most natural. Our electors must aid this, by a keen criticism of the language of the hustings; and the two parties will act and re-act on each other for good. We will return to this engrossing topic next week.

## Foreign Intelligence.

### FRANCE

THE defeat of Lord Palmerston on the Canton question has created great excitement among our gallant Allies. That the event has given them much satisfaction is undeniable and unadvised.

The conferences for the settlement of the Neuchâtel dispute have been opened at Paris, and it is said that, upon the whole, they are progressing hopefully. If it be true, however, that the King of Prussia still formally insists on his right to the title of Prince of Neuchâtel, and on the possession of the property dependent on that title, the prospect of an harmonious settlement is not a brilliant one.

M. Livois, chief of the French missions in China, has arrived in Paris, in order to give the Emperor full information with respect to the position of the Catholics in the Celestial Empire. It is thought pretty certain that we are likely to have the co-operation of France in any proceedings against Canton.

Prince Danilo of Montenegro has arrived in Paris, where the Montenegro difficulty will be discussed. Prince Danilo, it is said, will place himself under the protection of the Emperor, in order to oppose the influence of Russia and Austria.

The Government is about to establish several new journals in the provinces, whose mission will be to stir up the constituency to vote for the Government candidates at the coming general election.

Ferukh Khan, according to Paris letters, is endeavouring to negotiate a treaty of commerce between Persia and Belgium.

### SPAIN

THE Madrid telegraph conveys to us the rough statement of the Spanish Budget, which, as a matter of course, exhibits a considerable deficit. The receipts for 1857 are valued at 1,562 million reals, and the expenditure at 1,800 millions; the deficit is consequently 238 million reals, or above two millions and a quarter sterling.

General Prim, though in custody, was to be brought forward as a candidate in five or six places in Catalonia at the elections.

A new depot of arms had been discovered at Madrid.

A ministerial journal intimates (*apropos* of what we do not know) that the Government has no official reason to suppose that the United States are at this moment contemplating any attack on Cuba.

### AUSTRIA

PREPARATIONS are being made at the Palace of the Augarten at Vienna for the reception of Field-Marshal Radetsky, who is shortly expected in the Austrian capital. On the 1st instant the Marshal published an order of the day on retiring from the military government of Lombardy, in which he says:—"I leave to more youthful strength the arduous duty of forming and training you, so as to enable me again to show at the decisive moment, should the voice of our beloved monarch summon me peradventure again, that the sword which I have borne for 72 years, and on many a battlefield, remains still firm in my grasp."

### RUSSIA

RUSSIA is stated to have obtained from China the cession of 3,000 acres in Chusan for a naval port, leave for the establishment of commercial factories, and the confirmation of the privilege of a resident ambassador at the court of Peking, with the right of access to the Emperor's person; all which is granted in exchange for assistance which the Czar undertakes to give the present dynasty against the rebels.

The Imperial Government, on the report of the Governor-General of Russian Siberia, by agreement with the Chinese Government, has raised the town of Kiahka, on the Chinese frontier, to the rank of the capital of a district. Henceforth the town of Kiahka will have a Russian military commandant and a civil governor. Kiahka is a Russian settlement of more than a century old, a little to the south of Lake Baikal, and constitutes, with the Chinese frontier town, Maimachen (which is in immediate juxtaposition), the emporium through which the whole of the overland tea for Russia passes. It is by this channel that the article originally reached Western Europe; and if all intercourse with the Chinese seaboard were stopped—as is contemplated—by this channel only would all consumers, not only in Europe, but in America also, be able to obtain it. The whole tea-drinking world would have to content itself with obtaining from St. Petersburg what supplies it could, after every ounce had been brought a distance of nearly 8,000 miles by land transport and river navigation.

Letters from St. Petersburg speak of Count de Morny having become more Russian than even the subjects of the Autocrat himself; and of the increasing favours bestowed by the Emperor upon the French Ambassador.

### ITALY

THE Minister of War at Turin has offered a reward of £400 to the inventor of the best musket for infantry soldiers. Foreigners are allowed to compete.

The amnesty granted by the Emperor of Austria to his Italian subjects has been regarded at Rome with great disfavour. Count Colloredo, the Austrian Minister at the Papal city, complained to Cardinal Antonelli that the amnesty had not been published in the Roman official journal. The Cardinal at once caused its insertion, but it was unaccompanied by a word of comment.

The Austrian military authorities have made numerous arrests simultaneously at Bologna, Rimini, and Cesena. MM. Sallucci and Zaniboni had been arrested at Bologna, to the great surprise of the inhabitants, as they enjoyed a high reputation for probity and capacity. They were immediately handed over to be tried by the Austrian court-martial, which is always sitting. The persons arrested were all in the employment of the Government.

### TURKEY AND THE EAST

Two intendants have been arrested at Constantinople for being concerned in a considerable robbery from the Treasury of the Sultan.

Mehemed Bey, a Hungarian by birth and family, but a Turk by adoption, and a colonel in the Sultan's army, has been elected by the Circassian National Council to the command-in-chief of their army. He had distinguished himself in the Hungarian war of independence, and is connected with Circassia by marriage. On receiving the intelligence of his election, he applied some funds with which he had been furnished by the Circassians to the purchase in London of arms and ammunition, which had no sooner arrived than he resigned his post of chief of the Turkish General Staff, hired an English steamer and a brig, and set sail for Circassia with three hundred Poles and the implements of war. When they went on board at Byukere, the Polish flag was hoisted, and the adventurers sang the national war hymn. The Russian Ambassador, on getting intelligence of these matters, asked the Grand Vizier for explanations. Inquiries were made, and the reply then given was that Mehemed Bey had illegally absconded from his post. It is said that the Russian ambassador means to send off

a war steamer in pursuit of the expedition; but the papers of the English captain are quite regular, and the Russians appear powerless.

The Moldavian troops occupied and garrisoned on the 23rd ult., the towns of Bolgrad, Ismail, and Reni, surrendered by the Russians in pursuance of the Treaty of Paris. The same despatch mentions that the Russians were expected to take possession of Komrat and the new territory on the Upper Yalpuok some time between the 25th of February and the 1st of March, at which period the boundary would be defined.

### AMERICA

THE President Elect has appointed General Cass to be Secretary of State, and Mr. Cobb to be Secretary of the Treasury, in his new administration. The sentiments of General Cass towards Great Britain have never been very friendly. It is conjectured, however, that, as General Cass appears too old for the arduous duties of Secretary of State, he will, after giving the new President the aid of his diplomatic and senatorial experience at the outset of the Government, retire and be succeeded by the Hon. Howell Cobb, now to be Secretary of the Treasury.

The House of Representatives, on the 18th ult., passed the Submarine Telegraph Bill by a vote of 112 to 81.

The new treaty between the United States and Mexico, involving a loan from the former, has not yet arrived in Washington, and its precise terms are the subject of anxious conjecture. It is now stated that the sum required from the United States Government is twenty-five millions, for which Mexico will surrender the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to the United States. Another rumour is, that the cession of the province of Sonora is to be the "consideration" for the loan.

Mr. Sumner, the senator for Massachusetts, whom Preston Brooks abused, is now on his way to England.

At New York the grand jury have found a true bill against Mr. Eckel and Mrs. Cunningham for the murder of Dr. Burdell, have held George V. Snodgrass as a witness, and have released altogether the Cunningham girls.

Advices from Greytown to the 10th ult. contain intelligence of several battles having been fought between General Walker and the Costa Ricans, in which the latter were defeated.

### THE WAR WITH CHINA.

SIR JOHN BOWRING has come to an understanding with Admiral Guérin, the Commander-in-chief of the French division, and they have decided in concert upon effectual measures for keeping down, in case of need, the Chinese population at Hong Kong. Fifty men of the French crews have taken up a position in the east part of the town, and every arrangement has been settled for landing, at the first signal, all the landing companies and four field howitzers. It seems that this attitude of the French is due to instructions received by them by the very last mail.

Some mandarins have issued to the populace vengeance-breathing proclamations. That of the mandarin-governor of Whampoa is thus translated:—

"The infamous foreigners have dared to raise the standard of revolt against the sublime and venerated authority of the Emperor. They have attacked the city of Canton, with the intent of committing it to flames, and have already received the punishment that they deserve; for our invincible troops have repelled them, and killed a large number of them.

"Let them be attacked in all parts of the empire. Let every inhabitant of China who encounters an Englishman give him the fate he deserves. Already our innumerable fleets, already our great armies, renowned all over the world, advance to expel them; let everybody unite with them; let every one take part in the war, and teach the foreigners to tremble before the will and the anger of our sovereign, whose gaze burns like the rays of the sun, and whose power is illimitable.

"He who obeys not these orders will be considered as a traitor, and may expect from us a punishment as prompt as it shall be terrible. You hear! Obey!"

"Done at Whampoa, the 9th of the 12th moon.

"The Mandarin Governor,—TCHYN-TOO."

On the publication of this document, which is one of the least violent published by the Chinese authorities, the foreign ships anchored in the roads or in the Tehou-Kiang sailed away, taking with them the few Europeans in the town. The utmost excitement prevailed.

Sir John Bowring and his family were, it appears, involved in the wholesale scheme of poisoning attempted by the Chinese bakers. One of his servants died, notwithstanding all the exertions of a medical attendant.

### THE TREATY WITH PERSIA.

THE following are published as the chief points of the Anglo-Persian Treaty just signed at Paris:—

"I. The whole of the Persian territory, which is or might be occupied by the English troops up to the proclamation of peace in those parts, is to be completely evacuated by the English.

"II. Persia recognises the independence of Afghanistan—that is to say, Persia takes the solemn engagement not to interfere any more in the affairs of Afghanistan.

"III. Herat is restored to its independence. That province will henceforth be governed by its native rulers.

"IV. Renewal of the treaty of commerce concluded between Persia and England. England will henceforth be treated in the Persian Empire on the footing of the most favoured nation; Persia equally so in the British Empire.

"V. England renounces henceforth affording protection to Persian subjects.

"VI. Mr. Murray, the British Minister, who resided at Teheran before the war, will return to Teheran, where he will be received with honours by the Persian Government."

Ferukh Khan, immediately after the signature of this treaty, sent off a telegraphic despatch to Bucharest, which is the last station of the line. An attaché of the Persian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been waiting in that town since the commencement of the dispute, and he at once started with the message for Teheran.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA.—A plenipotentiary will, it is understood, shortly proceed to China with full powers to conclude a peace. The person, whoever he may be, will not supersede Sir John Bowring, or in any way dispense with the assistance of the men who are at present conducting the affairs of the country in the Eastern Seas. He will, however, have the advantage of knowing the wishes of the Cabinet from the Ministers themselves, and he will be acquainted with what has been said and done at home; while Sir J. Bowring, Sir M. Seymour, and Mr. Parkes, will be able to supply him with the necessary local knowledge. A military commander, with 5,000 men, will also at once be despatched to the scene of disturbance. Of course, if the area of hostilities widen, this force will be increased. The plenipotentiary will, we believe, seek to establish direct communication, not with Yeh, but with the Emperor.

A VILLAGE WONDER.—A shepherd named Martin, in one of the rural districts of France, was a strange, sullen, reserved sort of fellow, and his ignorant neighbours suspected him of correspondence with the devil. Some time ago, he had a quarrel with his wife (which was not unusual), and threatened to make away with himself in such a way that nobody should ever know what had become of him, and that she, not being able to prove his death, should not marry again. She went crying to bed, and left him sitting by the fire-side. Next morning he was not to be found. The house doors and windows were shut, and bolted on the inside. He could not, therefore, have gone out; nor had anyone seen him. Every room, every closet, was searched in vain; the well was exsored, but he was not drowned himself there; and so the poor woman, concluding that her wild partner had been as bad as his word, gave him up for ever. Weeks, if not months, passed by, till the widow of Martin had occasion to light a fire in a back kitchen which had seldom been used. The chimney began to smoke horribly, and a little Savoyard was called to sweep it. The boy climbed half-way up, and then dropped back, fainting with terror, and declaring that there was a man in the chimney. This was found to be the case. Martin, having resolved upon suicide, and still indulging his conceit of a mysterious disappearance, had crept up the chimney with a rope, a nail, and a hammer. He had fixed the nail, tied the rope round his neck, and put the hammer in his pocket; then turned himself off, and so died. And so, this discovery being made, the widow became free to wed, if she pleased, a wiser and a better tempered man; and the supernatural awe which had been felt about the fate of dark Martin gave way to contemporary pity. The conclusion of this little history was enacted only a few days ago.

### THE DOCKS NAPOLEON.

A TRIAL has lately taken place in Paris, which will hereafter figure among the most celebrated even of the French *Causés Célèbres*. We noticed the trial in our foreign intelligence of last week; the case being now concluded, we will give it in broad outline.

Some time in 1852 a speculation was started in Paris for constructing what were termed "docks," upon an extensive scale. The name was borrowed from England, but in translation had considerably changed its meaning. The Paris "docks" had no relation to ships or maritime commerce; they were, or were to be (as the scheme was never carried out), simply a series of warehouses where goods might be deposited, the owners being offered, besides the advantage of safe custody for bulky commodities for which they might themselves have no convenient storage, the further benefit of obtaining a receipt equivalent to what in England is called a dock warrant, representing their property so lodged in a form best adapted either for transfer by sale, or as deposit for advances of money. The system had been long tried in this country, where it had worked admirably. Large profits had accrued to the proprietors of docks, and great convenience resulted to trade generally by the use of warrants. There was fair reason to anticipate equal success from similar establishments in Paris.

The original projectors of the scheme were MM. Cusin, Legendre, and Duchesne de Vere. The two former had been partners as bankers, and were engaged in sundry enterprises of an industrial or commercial character. M. Duchesne de Vere was a landowner, whose special department in relation to the undertaking seems to have been the selection of sites, the purchase of land, and other practical operations. These three parties—who were all defendants in the late action—were the Original Concessionaires and Managing Directors of the Company, which was established under the name of the Docks Napoleon. The capital required was estimated at fifty million francs, or two millions sterling, divided into 200,000 shares, of 250f. each. When issued to the public, however, the scheme met with a doubtful success. Applications were, indeed, received for more than the total number of shares; but the list of applicants, when properly sifted, left a real residue of demand for only about 100,000 shares. Upon this reduction a suspicion of surreptitious dealing has been hung. The three directors were charged with keeping back nearly 100,000 shares, with the intention of issuing them afterwards at a premium for their own profit.

If this was the case, the result was a complete disappointment. Even out of the limited number of shares allotted, only some 87,000 were actually taken up. The residue remained in the hands of the company; the capital subscribed being quite inadequate to the due completion of the enterprise. The subsequent proceedings of the managing directors exhibit the usual phases of a struggle against overwhelming difficulties. Towards the public an aspect of success was maintained; meanwhile, negotiations were undertaken, successively, with English capitalists, with M. Pereire, with the great house of Rothschild, and with Messrs. Fox and Henderson, in the hope of finding means whereby the enterprise could be completed. During these negotiations there is no doubt that the directors promulgated many statements which the real facts would not have justified, and partially concluded bargains that were essentially improvident and unwarrantable. In the course of time the affairs of the company grew more complicated, frequent suits were brought in the civil courts, and finally the concession was cancelled, an investigation being subsequently instituted under Government authority, which resulted in the trial just ended.

The gravamen of charge against the directors was that they had misappropriated funds belonging to the company to a vast amount. About twenty million francs had been actually paid up, of which seven millions proved deficient; while of the 113,000 shares that ought to have remained in the chest, only a few were forthcoming, and little question could be raised but that a large number had been illegally issued, and sold for what they would fetch in the market. The modes in which the abstracted funds had been disposed of were various. Some of the directors had "borrowed" other moneys had been appropriated to carry on their individual enterprises; and with part they gambled and lost on the Bourse. These facts were proved beyond controversy against the three defendants we have named. With them was joined M. Berryer, a son of the celebrated Legitimist advocate and orator, who, whilst nominally engaged as an *employé* at £200 a year, was sent to England upon a species of secret service, and obtained considerable sums out of the company's capital.

The fifth defendant was M. Orsi, a merchant of good report, who became director of the company some time after it was started. As director he was made defendant in the late trial; yet his name appears but rarely throughout the whole series of voluminous proceedings. No act of complicity was shown—no funds or shares illegally obtained were traced to his hands. The only fact proved was, that he had obtained a loan, on security, of £8,000 from the company.

M. Orsi, therefore, was acquitted; M. Cusin was sentenced to imprisonment for three years, and to pay a fine of 5,000f.; Arthur Berryer, imprisonment for two years, and a fine of 5,000f.; Legendre, imprisonment for one year and 5,000f. fine; Duchesne de Vere, imprisonment for six months, and a fine of 2,000f.; and by a further judgment they were sentenced to refund the sums fraudulently appropriated.

### IRELAND.

FORGERY AND FATAL CONSEQUENCES.—On Thursday week, a gentleman of military appearance, and who represented himself as Lord Charles Hay, bought three bracelets, for which he paid by a cheque for £45, signed "Lord C. E. Hay," and drawn on Cox and Co., the London army agents. This having been ascertained to be a forgery, the gentleman, who was traced to Dublin, was taken into custody, upon which he at once admitted the forgery, but stated that he had committed it under the influence of delirium tremens, and that his name was Lieutenant Tolcher, of the 95th Regiment. On the detective officer's card being sent up stairs, the mistress of the house, to whose daughter, it is said, the prisoner was engaged to be married, was seized with an illness, from which she died the same night.

MURDER.—CAPITAL CONVICTION.—At the Tipperary assizes, James Conway and John Murphy were recently tried for the murder of Thomas Ryan, at Clonmel, on the 27th of September last. The prisoners were accused of entering the lunatic asylum of the town for the purpose of plunder. The deceased was the right guard—they attacked and killed him. The jury returned a verdict of guilty against Conway, but acquitted Murphy.

REVIVAL OF THE TERRYALTS.—The "Clare Journal" describes a scene, once common in Ireland, but unknown for a long period, which has created the apprehension that "Terryaltism" may be about to re-appear in the south. On Monday above 100 persons gathered in a field of rich pasture belonging to a Mr. James Gibson, at Killenora, and commenced to turn up the land with spades. The police were present, and remonstrated with the people, but could not dissuade them from their purpose; and, no magistrate being present, they were unable to interfere to prevent the destruction of the field. Isolated cases of this nature must not, however, lead to the supposition that Ireland is not at present peaceful as well as prosperous.

### SCOTLAND.

GABOTTING IN GLASGOW.—On Tuesday week, Mr. Alexander, Jeweller, of Gordon Street, Glasgow, left his shop in charge of a boy of fourteen years of age. He had not been gone more than a few minutes when a man entered, and asked to see some rings; and then another man, who wanted to buy a watch. On the boy's saying that he had no authority to sell the watches, both men left, but returned in a minute or two, when one of them seized the boy so tightly round the throat that the blood flowed from his mouth, while the other went outside to keep watch. At this moment a customer entered, and seeing how matters stood, closed the door till the police could be called, when the man who was strangling the boy was taken into custody.

SCOTCH FISHERIES.—In Scotland there is a great and increasing prosperity in the trade in white herrings. The number of those cured increased from 543,954 barrels in 1840 to 766,303 in 1855, and the exports from 252,522 to 422,264 barrels. The total produce of the herring fishery of 1856 is estimated at 895,462 barrels, and the value thereof at upwards of £1,000,000. The capital embarked in the trade is £2,700,000, and it is supposed to give subsistence to 70,000 persons. Nearly 1,300 boats are engaged in this fishery.

CARD SHARPERS ON THE CLYDE.—As the steamer *Prenter* was on her way down the Clyde a few days ago, the captain discovered that a party of card-sharpers were plying their disreputable avocation in the steerage. To put a stop to these illegal proceedings, a quantity of Cayenne pepper was placed on a plate, and in a state of ignition, was secretly introduced into a corner of the steerage while the sporting party were busy at play. The result was entirely what might have been anticipated—after a short time the company was seized with a most violent fit of sneezing, and obliged to fly with all haste into the open air.



## THE PROVINCES.

**WITCHCRAFT AT RUGLEY.**—A young farmer, named Charlesworth, residing on a small farm of his own at Bramley Hurst, near Rugeley, married about six months ago a young woman in his own station. The marriage, however, displeased his widowed mother, who had been living with him; and she left the house, cautioning him before her departure, not to attempt to make cheese, as it would be sure to tumble to pieces. Needless of this caution, cheese-making was prosecuted, but with little or no success. The farmer and his wife were ill, and the dairymaid also was unwell, without any apparent cause. The farmer coupled these things with his mother's prediction, and came to the conclusion that he was "bewitched." Bemoaning his condition to a neighbour, Sammons, a toll-gate keeper, who at times worked on the farm, Sammons recommended him to go to a "wise man," James Tunnick, well known in the neighbourhood as one who "could do anything." The farmer and his wife immediately set off for Tunnick's house, and found him at home. Their complaint having been told, Tunnick proffered his services, and next morning made his appearance on the farm. Without seeing the cows he pronounced them bewitched, and the cheese-kettle he declared to have fallen under the same curse. He could remove the enchantment, but money would be necessary, and the simple farmer paid 5s. for himself, 5s. each for some horses, 5s. for the cheese-kettle, and 5s. 6d. for the cows, in all amounting to about £7 for removing the evil spell. Things, however, did not mend. On the contrary, the wife was occasionally seized with sickness, the husband suffered from unaccountable aches and pains, especially after Tunnick had been on the farm; and at night there were mysterious noises, accompanied by the shaking of the house, bellowing of cattle, and howling of dogs. Application was again made to Tunnick, who said all these troubles had arisen from the "widow's curse," and the enchantment put upon them, through her instrumentality, by wizards living at Longton, Burton-on-Trent, and Derby. More money was required to remove the enchantment and to pay the wizard's expenses. Charlesworth parted with his money to the amount of £30, but obtained no benefit. Tunnick at length went to live on the farm, and resided with the farmer and his wife several months, making crosses on all the doors with witch hazel, and burning blue lights to overcome the evil powers. Things went on in this way from April last year until February last, when Charlesworth and his wife began to suspect that Tunnick was contributing to their illness by drugging them, and that the extraordinary noises about the premises were occasioned by him. Tunnick was then sent about his business, and has now been brought before the magistrates on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences. The hearing of the case occupied the attention of the bench three days, and has just terminated in the commitment of Tunnick for trial at the ensuing Stafford Assizes.

**HAVING HIS REVENGE.**—A man of disreputable character appeared at a courting meeting at Morpeth, and was immediately ordered off the ground. In revenge, he hastened to the residence of the gentleman by whose authority he had been ordered off, and alarmed the household by reporting to the good lady that her husband, in leaping over a fence, had broken his leg, and that a post-chaise was to be immediately sent from Morpeth to the scene of the accident. The consternation thus created amply soothed the fellow's feelings, no doubt.

**ALARMING SCENE IN A CHAPEL.**—The Rev. W. Griffith was on Sunday evening preaching an opening sermon in a new chapel built by the Wesleyan Reformers, at North Shields. The chapel was crowded. In the middle of the discourse a cry of fire was raised; and it was indeed found that the gas had set fire to the ceiling, and that the flames were steadily licking their way along the light woodwork of the roof. Paralyzed at first, the congregation presently made a desperate rush to the doors. Several of the officers of the church, however, are seafaring men, and with the coolness and promptitude of their class, kept back the crowd. At length the doors were opened, and the people all escaped without any important personal injury. Having got the congregation out safely, the seamen as successfully extinguished the fire, so that comparatively little damage was done.

**STRANGE ACCIDENT.**—On Sunday morning, four men lost their lives by the sinking of an oyster-barge in the east arm of the Shoreham harbour. The Pearl oyster-smack came into harbour that morning, and the barge in question was engaged to take the oysters from the vessel to the oyster-pond, and about 10 o'clock, being laden with 80 tubs, the barge started from the vessel's side for that purpose. It had got to its destination, and the men had commenced casting the oysters, when a squall from the north-west sprang up, accompanied with rain. It is supposed that the men took shelter under the cuddy in the fore part of the barge, and the ebb tide just commencing caused the sea to rise, and, unperceived by them, filled the barge's stern with water, and she foundered almost instantly. The barge was not seen to go down, but being missed, search was made, and eventually a man's hand was discovered out of the water, which led to the full disclosure of the catastrophe. What renders the affair the more singular is, that the barge was within about 6 feet of the shore, and that, with ordinary exertions, the men could have reached it in safety.

**PERSONATING A JURYMEN.**—At the last Quarter Sessions for Leeds, an old man named George Rider, in the employment of Mr. William Lee, draper, Kirkstall, personated his master as jurymen on several trials, by, as he alleged, his master's orders. For this offence Lee and Rider were each fined £10. Lee paid his £10; but poor Rider, who has a large family, being unable to find the money, was conveyed to York Castle. Rider petitioned the Home Secretary to order his release. Sir George Grey replied to the petition by stating, that as the fine had not been paid, and as the offence was a very grave one, he should not order his release until the expiration of three months from his apprehension.

**FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION NEAR OLDHAM.**—One of the boilers of the Providence Mills, Lees, near Oldham, burst on Thursday week, killing five people—four men and a boy. Luckily, the boiler-house was detached from the main building, so that only those who happened to be in the former were placed in danger. The boiler-house was reduced to a heap of ruins; some of the bricks were hurled to the distance of nearly a quarter of a mile, and the windows of all the houses in the immediate neighbourhood were broken. Several of the reekers in the mill itself were scalded, one of them severely. The play-ground of the Wesleyan school (near the mill), which would have been filled with children a few minutes later, was strewn with bricks, broken glass, and pieces of timber and iron.

**MINE EXPLOSION.**—An explosion of fire damp took place in a pit near Derby last week. The pit, which is 234 yards deep, and divided into twelve working stalls, had been properly inspected in the morning, when it was apparently secure. About ten o'clock, however, three explosions occurred. They all took place in the No. 9 stall, to which and one adjoining the mischief was confined, the men in other stalls continuing to work in ignorance of what had taken place till noon, at which time the extent of the calamity was made manifest. Three men and two boys were killed, and thirteen other persons injured. It appeared on the inquest that the stallmen were in the habit of keeping powder and other stores in a box near the face of the works. The powder in the box had got ignited by a sudden outburst of gas, and the concussion of this brought the gas out of the works upon the workmen's lights and caused a second explosion. Being in darkness, a stallman, named Starbuck, called out to some one to strike a light. A man named Wood (who is not injured at all) desired that they would not do so, as it might cause another explosion; and immediately ran as fast down the gate road as he could in the dark, and when about 200 yards from where the light was to be struck, another explosion (believed to be of powder) occurred, killing five persons. A light had evidently been struck at the place where Wood ran from, as a score of lucifer matches were found there, where also the bodies of the deceased were found. A verdict of accidental death was returned.

**DEATH FROM HYDROPHOBIA.**—A labourer, named Ambrose Arnold, aged thirty-six, in the service of Mr. Treadwell, of Hartley, recently died from the effects of a bite from a mad dog, which he received in May last. On Monday week the deceased felt very unwell; on the following day symptoms of madness presented themselves; and on Wednesday he became so unmanageable, that he was conveyed to the union, where he died in a raving state, howling like a dog.

**HOUSEBREAKING AT NEWPORT.**—The house of Mr. Capella, jeweller, Commercial Street, Newport, Monmouthshire, was last week broken into, and goods stolen to the value of between £500 and £600. Having broken into the house from the back yard, the thieves picked the lock of the door between the lobby and shop with skeleton keys.

**SUSPECTED POISONING NEAR SOUTHAMPTON.**—Mrs. Read, a lady residing at Bitterne, was seized after supper, on the evening of Friday week, with violent sickness. A surgeon who was called in, found, from certain symptoms, that she had swallowed some strong poison. Suspicion fell on a servant who had been in the family for many years, and who is in custody.

**ATTEMPT TO POISON A FARMER.**—A charge has been preferred at Driffield, against a man named Bell, for having attempted to poison his brother, Mr. Thomas Bell, farmer, of Grindale, near Bridlington. It is nearly a year since the prosecutor received a hamper which was directed to him, and which contained a stone bottle, in which was about half-a-gallon of sherry wine. The prosecutor tasted the wine, but not liking it, he spat it out again. His servant girl swallowed some, and she became very ill, though she afterwards recovered. The prisoner, who then resided a few miles distant, and was a farmer, was suspected, as about the time in question he sent his shepherd with a hamper to the nearest railway station. In a week or two afterwards the accused promised to give the shepherd £50 or £100, if he would say that he (the shepherd) had sent something. It was ascertained that the wine contained prussic acid, a dose of which quickly destroyed a full-grown cat. The prosecutor has a life interest in a farm in the neighbourhood, and if he died without children (he having none at present), it would go to his brother. On a policeman going to the prisoner's house to take him into custody, he escaped by leaning out of the bedroom window, and he had kept out of the way until recently, when he was apprehended at Wakefield. On examination, George Bell was committed for trial at the Yorkshire Assizes.

**ATTEMPTED MURDER.**—A young woman at Southampton has been shot by a man with whom she had been living, and who had quarrelled with her. She was hit in the shoulder, but not mortally wounded. The man is in custody, and committed for trial.

## ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

**ABERDEEN.**—Mr. Thompson has intimated his intention to retire from the representation. Mr. Farley Leigh, barrister, of London, and Professor of Law in Haileybury College, is a candidate for the vacant seat.

**AYLESBURY.**—Mr. Layard has seen to visit his constituents, but, in consequence of the all but unanimous dissatisfaction expressed at his vote against Lord Palmerston, he is not likely to contest the borough.

**BATH.**—Captain Scobell has announced his intention of not again soliciting the suffrages of the electors of Bath, and Mr. William Hunt is in the field. Mr. Whately, Q.C., intends offering himself as a candidate.

**BERWICK-ON-TWEED.**—Mr. John Stapleton, late a director of the Royal British Bank, has appealed to the electors.

**BERWICKSHIRE.**—Mr. H. Smith Evans, of Barnsbury Park, Islington, has issued an address to the electors, offering himself as a candidate, in opposition to the Hon. Francis Scott.

**BODMIN.**—Mr. Wyld, of Charing Cross, is to stand for this borough on the Liberal interest.

**BOLTON.**—Mr. Cobden will, it is understood, appeal to the constituency of Bolton, formerly represented by Sir J. Bowring.

**BRADFORD.**—Mr. Milligan has retired; Mr. Wickham has been thrown overboard by the Liberals; and Titus Salt, the eminent manufacturer of Saltaire, and the veteran Major-General Thompson, have been introduced.

**CAMBRIDGE.**—Mr. Mowatt does not intend to offer himself for Cambridge.

**CARLISLE.**—The Conservative party have determined on offering an opposition to Sir James Graham; and, with that view, placards have been extensively posted about the city, requesting the electors to reserve their votes.

**CHESTER.**—Mr. Henry Grenfell, brother of the member for Windsor, offers himself to the electors as a Liberal.

**DAVENPORT.**—Mr. Wilson, Secretary to the Treasury, and Mr. Bernal Osborne, the Secretary of the Admiralty, are ready to contest the seats of Sir E. Perry and General Berkeley.

**EDINBURGH.**—A requisition has been started in Edinburgh, addressed to Lord John Russell.

**ESSEX.**—Sir John Tyrrell retires from the representation of North Essex, and Mr. C. Du Cane offers himself as successor.

**EVESHAM.**—It is expected that Mr. William Malins, brother of the member for Wallingford, will be a candidate. Mr. Henry Willoughby and Mr. Holland offer themselves for re-election.

**FIFESHIRE.**—The present Member, somewhat contrary to expectation, will offer again; but it is understood that Mr. Hay Wemyss, of Wemyss, son of the late Admiral Wemyss, long representative of the county, also intends to come forward on liberal principles.

**FINSBURY.**—Serjeant Parry, Major Reed, Mr. Burchell, and Mr. W. Cox, have announced themselves as candidates.

**FROME.**—There will again be a severe contest for this borough, Mr. Donald Nicoll, of London, having already issued his address.

**HANTS, NORTHERN DIVISION.**—Mr. Beach, a gentleman of fortune, residing near Basingstoke, is spoken of by the Tories as a candidate for the representation of the Northern Division, in the room of the Speaker.

**KENT.**—Mr. Martin, the Liberal representative of the Western Division, elected a few weeks since, has announced himself a candidate for re-election. The return of Mr. Smith, the Conservative member, is to be contested by Mr. Whatman, now M.P. for Maidstone.

**LONDON.**—Mr. Wigram Crawford has issued his address, and Baron Rothschild will have the full support of the Liberals. Mr. Raikes Currie takes time to think about the City, and the City takes time to think of Sir James Duke. Mr. Masterman has formally retired.

**LANCASHIRE.**—Mr. Heywood retires from the Northern Division; and it is rumoured that Lord Stanley will be invited to become the representative.

**LIVERPOOL.**—In addition to the present members—Mr. Horsfall, Conservative, and Mr. Ewart, Liberal—Mr. Charles Turner, who was elected as a supporter of Lord Derby in 1852, will appear as a candidate.

**MIDDLESEX.**—The Hon. George Byng will, it is said, be one of the Liberal candidates in the county of Middlesex. Mr. Bernal Osborne will not, it is understood, encounter the chances of an election. The Marquis of Blandford, a Conservative, will probably be a candidate.

**NORFOLK.**—In the Western Division Mr. Bagge and Mr. Bentinck will be opposed by Viscount Bury, eldest son of the Earl of Albemarle, and Mr. Brampton Gordon, of Letton. Major General Windham, the hero of the Redan, will, it is rumoured, be brought forward for the Eastern Division.

**NORTH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.**—Mr. Fitzpatrick Vernon, son of the Right Hon. Vernon Smith, M.P., and son-in-law of Earl Fitzwilliam, will contest this division of the county as a supporter of Lord Palmerston.

**OXFORD (CITY).**—Mr. C. Neate, M.A., Senior Fellow of Oriel College, is in the field in opposition to Mr. Cardwell.

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY.**—The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir G. C. Lewis, who is a member for Christ Church, will, it is rumoured, be solicited to allow himself to become a candidate in opposition to Mr. Gladstone. The general opinion of the University, however, is that Mr. Gladstone will not be opposed.

**OXFORDSHIRE.**—It is stated that Lieutenant-Colonel Fane, of Wormsley House, will be put in nomination in opposition to G. G. Harcourt, Esq., M.P.

**PLYMOUTH.**—Mr. Roundell Palmer, finding that he has no chance of being re-elected for Plymouth, has resigned his seat. The committee of liberal electors are seeking a colleague for Mr. R. P. Collier.

**PEMBROKE BOROUGH.**—It is rumoured that Mr. G. H. Kindersley, solicitor to Lord Derby, will contest these boroughs with the present member, Sir John Owen, Bart.

**SALISBURY.**—Mr. Slade, Q.C., is spoken of on the Conservative interest. Mr. Higford Burr, of Ross, who unsuccessfully contested the city at the last general election, is also spoken of as a candidate. Mr. Chaplin and Gen. Buckley will offer themselves for re-election.

**SANDWICH.**—An address has already been issued to the electors by Mr. E. H. Hugessen. Mr. Lang, of Broadstairs, well known for his Liberal political principles, has, we understand, also announced his intention of coming forward.

**SUNDERLAND.**—In anticipation that Mr. Hudson will not offer himself for re-election, Mr. Richard Hoare, of the firm of Messrs. Hoare, Buxton, and Co., merchant's, London, has issued an address to the electors.

**TAVISTOCK.**—Lord John Russell closes his long connection with the city of London, and will, it is said, ask the suffrages of the electors of Tavistock.

**TIVERTON.**—Lord Palmerston has declined an invitation to stand for the City of London. The Noble Viscount remains true to his Tiverton constituency, and any attempt to oppose him would be futile. His colleague, Mr. Heathcot, is expected to retire, on the dissolution, from Parliamentary life, owing to increased age and infirmity.

**TAUNTON.**—Sir John Ramden will not come forward. The Conservatives will bring Mr. Arthur Mills.

**TWICKENHAM.**—Mr. Martin and Mr. H. Brown (both Liberals) offer themselves for re-election, and Mr. Cox, of the Northern Circuit, has pledged himself to come forward. There is a strong feeling with respect to Mr. Brown, and his connection with the Royal British Bank.

**TYNEMOUTH.**—Mr. W. S. Lyndsay has issued an address in defence of his vote on the China question. Mr. Hugh Taylor has been invited to stand. It is stated, that in case Mr. Taylor declines to stand, Sir W. B. Riddell, who was defeated in West Kent a few weeks ago, will be put up by the Derbyites.

**WAKEFIELD.**—Mr. Leatham, a Liberal, a member of the Society of Friends, and brother-in-law of Mr. Bright, is a candidate.

**WESTMINSTER.**—Mr. Westerton, the churchwarden of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, the promoter of the suit against the Hon. and Rev. R. Liddell, has consented to be put in nomination.

**WILTS (SOUTH).**—Lord Henry Thynne, of Longleat, has announced himself as a candidate. It is believed by many that Mr. Wyndham will resign his seat, and that Lord Henry will be returned along with Mr. Sidney Herbert.

**WORCESTER.**—Mr. Huddleston (of the Northern Circuit) will contest this city in the Conservative interest.

## THE LUND HILL COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

The adjourned inquest in this case was held a few days ago. Seven miners who were working in the pit at the time of the accident gave evidence. They all said they had nothing to complain of, and that they considered the pit to have been well ventilated. One of them said he considered himself as safe in the pit as when he was at home. John Thompson, one of the colliers, however, spoke of neglect of the "trappers," who frequently collected together to talk, instead of being at their stations. Edward Simms, another miner, gave the following account of his position at the time of the accident:—"I was working in the pit when the explosion took place. I was in the dip, about 150 yards from the downcast shaft. John Ellis and Thomas Bell were with me, and they both escaped. When the gas went off I ran towards the pit bottom. I met the other damp, and it nearly choked me. I lay down till the fresh air came. The explosion took place in the dinner hour." Not one of the witnesses could give an opinion as to the cause of the explosion. The inquiry was again adjourned.

Water continues to be poured into the pit, and it is expected that several days will yet elapse before it will have risen to the height necessary to extinguish the fire. It will require several weeks to get the water out again, so that a month or six weeks will probably elapse before any of the bodies can be recovered. No hope is entertained that any of them will be capable of identification.

The number of men in the pit has now been ascertained to be 189.

## DISASTERS AT SEA.

**COLLISION ON THE ATLANTIC.**—On the morning of the 7th, between two and three o'clock, the weather being hazy, the screw steamship *Teutonia*, from Brazil to Hamburg, came into collision with the schooner *Smuggler*, Captain Young, bound from Cardiff to Corunna with coals. The schooner was struck on the port bow, and almost immediately went down with all hands. The *Teutonia's* boats were lowered, and after a diligent search, the captain of the *Smuggler* was picked up in an exhausted state; he had been in the water nearly an hour. The remainder of the crew, four in number, were lost.

**ACCIDENT TO THE MAIL STEAMER STAG.**—The Royal Mail Steamer *Stag*, of and from Glasgow for Belfast, with a general cargo and 90 passengers, during the snowstorm on Sunday morning, ran on the rocks near Blackhead. The *Cambria*, from Ardrossan, came to her assistance, and took off the passengers. The *Stag* then backed off, and, with assistance from the *Cambria*, reached the quay, with the food compartment full of water. The screw steamer *Semaphore*, from Liverpool for Belfast, when off the Calf of Man on Sunday morning, was struck by a heavy sea, which stove in the front of the cabin on deck, and nearly filled it with water.

**THE WRECK OF THE MADRID.**—The Captain of the *Madrid* writes that one of the masts had gone overboard, the foremast blown up, part of the upper deck and the bulwarks were apparently gone, and the vessel seemed to be fast settling down into a sort of quicksand.

**A SHIP SUNK WITH ITS CAPTAIN.**—The *Jason*, of Sunderland, 243 tons, was run down in the Channel on the night of Wednesday week, about 20 N.E. of the Lizard light, by the Belgian barque *Duchesse de Brabant*. She immediately filled, and went down in deep water. Her captain, it is supposed, fell between the two ships and perished. The rest of the crew were taken on board the Belgian barque, and landed at Falmouth.

**WRECKS IN 1856.**—In the year 1856, 1,153 ships were wrecked or met with casualties on and near the coast of the United Kingdom, between 49 degrees and 62 degrees north latitude and mid-channel, and 12 degrees west longitude. The burden of these ships was 229,936 tons, and the number of hands employed 10,014. The largest number of casualties occurred in January, February, November, and December. Of these ships 884 were British, registered at home; 32 British, registered in the colonies; and 237 foreigners. According to Captain Robertson, who has prepared an able and useful report on the subject, the occurrence of collisions has greatly increased, and that "the three leading causes of them appear from the tables to be—neglect to show lights, bad look-out, and misapprehension or neglect of the rule of the road."

**THE CIVIL SERVICE OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY.**—Official notice has been given that the examination of candidates for appointments in the East India Company's Civil Service will be held in the month of July ensuing. Natural born subjects of her Majesty may offer themselves at such examination—1, if they be between eighteen and twenty three years of age, on the 1st of May, 1857; 2, if they be not physically or morally disqualified; and 3, if they send in a statement to the India Board of the branches of knowledge (hereafter named) in which they desire to be examined. Those branches include English language, literature, and composition; English literature and history (legal and constitutional); the language, literature, and history of Greece, Rome, Italy, France, and Germany; pure and mixed mathematics; natural science (chemistry, electricity and magnetism, natural history, geology, and mineralogy); logic, and mental, moral, and political philosophy; Sanscrit and Arabic language and literature. The merit of the examinations will be decided by marks (6,875 in all), the largest number being allotted to English literature, history, and mathematics. The examination will be by papers and viva voce. The names of twelve of the candidates who may obtain a greater aggregate number of marks than the rest will be set forth in the order of merit, and these twelve will receive appointments in the civil service of the Company in the Bengal Presidency.

**THE EXPLOSION AT THE FOG-SIGNAL FACTORY.**—The inquest on the bodies of the men killed by the explosion at the fog-signal factory of the Eastern Counties Railway being concluded, the jury found a verdict of death from the explosion, adding—"And the jury are of opinion that the greatest negligence has been exhibited in conducting the manufacture of the fog-signals, and the most ordinary precautions have been neglected for protecting the lives of the workmen. That at the factory building was unsuited for the purpose of the manufactory, and placed in a position highly dangerous to the workmen on the works, the passengers by the Company's trains, and the surrounding neighbourhood."

## A PERSIAN MARRIAGE.

AMONG the customs of the country over which our late enemy the Shah reigns, few are more curious than those pertaining to the marriage ceremony, which in itself, however, is very simple. The kinsmen of the bridegroom assemble with a molla at the house of the bride, while the latter remains behind a curtain with relations of her own sex. The molla puts the question whether she is willing to accept the bridegroom elect; and, after a long delay—for the sake of form—she answers "Yes," in a whisper. The contract having then been signed and registered, and sweetmeats sent to the bride, she is ceremoniously conducted, with pipes and drums, and all her worldly goods, to the house of the man whose wife she has consented to be.

Our engraving represents, in three compartments, some of the incidents of a wedding ceremony in Persia. It is a fac-simile of a drawing made by an artist of Isfahan. The first compartment depicts an assemblage of men seated on their heels, dressed in loose robes bound with a scarf at the waist, and wearing the tall, black lamb's-skin caps. Before them, on the richly-worked carpet, are displayed various articles; and behind them are attendants bearing small trays, with other articles, to lay before them. At the head of the assembly are five bearded elders, with large turbans wreathed round their shav'd heads. One of the latter is reading an inscribed paper, which may either be the marriage license or a list of the presents which friends have made to the happy couple.

In the second and centre compartment, there is a bevy of fair women surrounding the bride and bridegroom. The lady is seated in the centre, and an attendant appears to be washing her feet. While the men array themselves in long silken robes, the ladies don jackets and trousers; and, as though there should be no mistake about the monopoly of these (to us) male attributes, Persian ladies, in blessed ignorance of crinoline and its substitutes, wear sometimes half-a-dozen pairs of trousers at the same time. The jackets fit tight to the body, and a centure, sometimes elaborately jewelled, girdles their delicate waists. A small cap, or striped kerchief, is worn on the head. The fingers and toe-nails are stained with hennah, and the eyelashes are powdered with "khol," a species of antimony, which, by making a dark line round the eye, gives it an appearance of greater size. The bridegroom, in his tall, black cap, is seated at her right hand. Conspicuous on the side of his head are his two long "love locks," so dear to every Persian. In front of the couple an attendant is playing the tambourine, and without doubt some other is singing of the loves of the Nightingale and the Rose, or lamenting, in softened strains, the sad fate of the fair and beautiful Shireen.

In the third compartment the bride is seated alone, surrounded by her ladies; whilst to the left are seen five men—two bearded and turbaned—who are evidently come to demand the hand of the fair and spotless beauty, whose praises, of course, not even Saffee himself could have adequately described.

The Isfahan artists are extremely clever in representing, not only figures, but ornaments. They decorate the covers of books and boxes, and the calumnaus (pen-holders), which no Persian who can write omits to carry in his girdle. There is a certain Pre-Raphaelite quaintness about their drawing; but they make up for this deficiency by the brilliancy of their colour. They use gold and silver very freely, and these they employ in a fluid state. Generally they have the reputation of being extremely quick at their work.





ARAB DRAUGHT PLAYERS.

## AN ENGLISHWOMAN'S NOTIONS OF ALGIERS.

HOW HARD IT WAS TO GET THERE.

THE Mediterranean has the reputation of being a mild member of the ocean family. Was not Venus born of the foam of its waters? Did not the gardens of the Hesperides ripen their golden apples in the sunshine of its glowing southern shore? And yet the truth must be spoken, that the Mediterranean, in modern December, is of an ugly temper, and is quite capable of detaining Ulysses from the arms of Penelope, and of making

soon obliged to seek our berths, from which we rose no more till the middle of the next day found us far from the Balearic Isles, our proper half-way house, and stoutly fastened by three anchors in the magnificent Bay of Rosa, on the coast of Spain, having made but little real way towards our African destination. However, we were only too thankful to be spared the terrific roll which is worse than "hope deferred." Rosa, a small, shabby, white town, stands at the foot of some spurs of the Pyrenees, which ascend in a splendid amphitheatre from the plains near the sea, to the snow-crowned peaks glittering in the far heaven. Never did a more wonderful and varied prospect greet our eyes, than in this little-frequented region, and we were just about to watch it through all the variations of a brilliant sunset, when we were called to a most elaborate dinner. How the cooking is got through on these boats, of no great size, and then elegantly dished and scientifically devoured, is one of the problems of French civilisation. In the Bay of Rosa we enjoyed the luxury of a quiet night, lying side by side with three other steamers also seeking shelter; and still from Algiers we were afar. All Thursday morning, New Year's Day, when Paris showers *étrennes* (New Year's gifts) on all good children, and when every soul in France calls on all its acquaintance, we lay quietly anchored in the Bay, gazing at the high bare hills, studded with small green olives, and longing to be allowed, in defiance of quarantine regulations, to try the shores of Spain. But after noon, the wind subsiding, we started on our way again, and steered for the Balearic Isles, finding ourselves at daybreak, on Friday the 2nd, between Majorca and Minorca. But here arose a new delay: one of the fans of the left paddle wheel broke, and our course, retarded for some hours, was at length totally arrested, in order that the broken member might be restored. From this time, however, no further misfortune befel. A crowd of French peasants were on board, and *militaires* of many costumes. One lively youth about twenty years old especially amused me; he had just come from the military school of St. Cyr, and was a sous-lieutenant—he wore his dandy dress with the funniest swagger, and his attentions to the ladies were wonderful to see. One of the lady passengers lost a gold bracelet, which was restored to her by a tall French peasant in a blouse, going out as a *colon* to be a labourer in the neighbourhood of Algiers. He had come from a department of France where wages were very low, hoping to "better himself," his pretty young wife, and a blushing, dark-eyed baby called Jules. Great difference exists between wages in different parts of France; the pauper population is a stationary one, and they more generally remain to vegetate, than wander about in search of better fortune. Near Marseilles, however, the rate is high, and it is very difficult to get a woman to do any supplementary work, such as washing or sewing, for a gentlemen's household. The colonist received 10*f.* for his luck and his honesty, which he took with one hand, while the other held Jules, swaddled up in rolls of clothes, and winking vigorously out of his little dark eyes at the unwonted scene around.

## ARRIVE THERE AT LAST.

About four o'clock in the morning I awoke, and thinking we must be approaching Africa, I staggered up on deck, equipped in the first garments which came to hand; and there, sure enough, at a great distance over the dark heaving waters of the sacred sea, was the dim sparkle of the Lighthouse of Algiers—now bright, now fading, marking out the site of the ancient Scosium, and the nests of the famous piratical Deys. A dusky cloud on the horizon to the right and the left of the light, showed the whereabouts of the hills of the Tell, or coast regions of Algiers. One by one the passengers came and hung over the side of the vessel, straining to see the long wished-for land; for five days of sea at this time of year is a weary voyage, and the many odours and the unaccountable noises are dolorous to endure. Dawn brought us to the harbour, and showed us the pyramidal town, rising white from its base upon the shore, and surrounded by its green olive-crowned hills. The quay is not yet finished, so that we had to disembark in small boats, which landed us among bare-legged Arabs and French *commisaires*, struggling to obtain the little luggage which we were allowed to take with us without passing it through the *douane*.

With the latter process, however, we had nothing to do. The luggage is all hauled intact from the vessel, and delivered some hours after, on application; and the passports of the passengers, given up on embarking at Marseilles, are restored at Algiers by the police, after, doubtless, being thoroughly scrutinised and copied; so that one enjoys the comfortable feel-

ing that, although one may be living in ease and seclusion in the green suburbs, one's name, residence, sex, and appearance are accurately known to *Messieurs les Fonctionnaires* who form the governmental Council of Ten. The vessel anchors in calm water, secured by a square mole. Algiers itself is on the side of a large bay; but there is no individual harbour, except that formed by the mole, much of which is the work of the Christian slaves who once formed a melancholy part of the population of the town. The late storms had piled up huge masses of stone round a fort, to the left hand as we entered, showing how great must be the power of the sea outside the artificial rampart, even in the comparatively sheltered coast of the bay.

## ASPECT OF THE TOWN—FIRST IMPRESSIONS ON LANDING.

Being bound to the private residence of friends who occupy a Moorish house in the suburbs, we took a *fiacre*, amidst the observation of a most miscellaneous us crowd, and drove off to our destination, just outside the fortifications. How shall we describe this famous den of pirates to our English readers! The houses are closely packed and wedged together, and are all of a dazzling whiteness, like a city of rock salt, or such confections as are sold in Paris. It rises step upon step, terrace upon terrace, the lower part of the town being somewhat tinged by the darker roofs of the French houses, but the upper retaining their Eastern character of massive white walls and tiny slits of windows—the whole pyramid crowned by the Casbah, or ancient palace of the Deys, now converted into a French barracks. The French have committed the folly of building their new houses four and five storeys high, forgetful of the earthquakes to which Algiers is occasionally subject. On all sides the town is surrounded by higher hills, on one of which is the Fort de l'Empereur, commanding the Casbah. This fort was taken by the French, being blown up on the 4th of July, 1830. Having been heavily bombarded by the invading army, it shortly became untenable, and was heroically destroyed by one of the surviving garrison, a negro, who, in order that it should not serve as a *point d'appui* for the French, himself set fire to the gunpowder, and perished in the explosion. The walls, when possessed by the invaders, crumbled under the recoil of the guns which they attempted to fire under their protection, but they set to work energetically to repair the advantageous site, and it is now a strong and picturesque building, commanding a magnificent view. Algiers itself capitulated on the 5th of July, 1830, the French capturing 15,000 brass cannon and about £2,028,500. The Turkish troops were disbanded, and the Dey was suffered to go to Naples. The immediate cause of the war was an absurd insult offered by the Dey to the French Consul. That dignity, being offended in the course of certain negotiations upon money matters, gave Monsieur Deval, during an audience at the Casbah, several raps on his face with a fan which held in his royal hand, which feminine aggravation fanned the spark which exploded the long-accumulating stock of grievances between the two countries, and finally made of Algiers a French colony.

It is very puzzling at first to seize upon the idea of Algiers as an artistic whole. You might as well mix up dates in green tea, and expect that to prove a well flavoured dish, as try to assimilate the French and the Arabic elements into a picture, a poem, or an architectural and social homogeneous development. The basis of the population is Arab, the Turks, always a despotic minority, having almost disappeared; the children of the desert show in great preponderance, stalking along in their floating white garments,



STREET SCENE IN ALGIERS.

Brown, Jones, and Robinson very sea-sick. It was on the 30th of December that we started, in a brilliant sunshine and with an inspiring breeze, from the harbour of Marseilles, in one of the steamers of the Messageries Impériales, which leave that port for Algiers regularly twice a week. We paid 80*f.* for a first-class fare to Algiers, and steamed away, in the comfortable hope of arriving in forty-eight hours. But, alas! the wind in the Gulf of Lyons, an atrocious breeze blowing from the north, and called a "mistral," increased to such a degree, that we were



A MOORISH CHILD.

out of which their bare legs protrude, of a dusty red colour, and tipped with slippers, which it is a marvel how they retain upon their feet. Their heads being also enveloped in drapery, they bear, seen from behind, a great resemblance to old women; but seen in front, the long white folds and dark majestic faces, seem to have walked straight out of the Book of Job. The features of the country are, of course, wholly African, except in the planting of small trees along the roads, after the manner of the Paris Boulevards; French gardening or agriculture seems to have made no way. The hills all round the town are covered with the blue spikes of the aloe, with its tall flower stem; the queer twisted cactus, chiefly a variety which bears thick prickly leaves, battledoor-shape; here and there a palm or a banana, and wild flowering yellow jasmine. All these things are essentially of another phase of nature, of another poetical literature, than ours. The



A PERSIAN MARRIAGE.—(FROM A PAINTING BY A NATIVE ARTIST.—SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



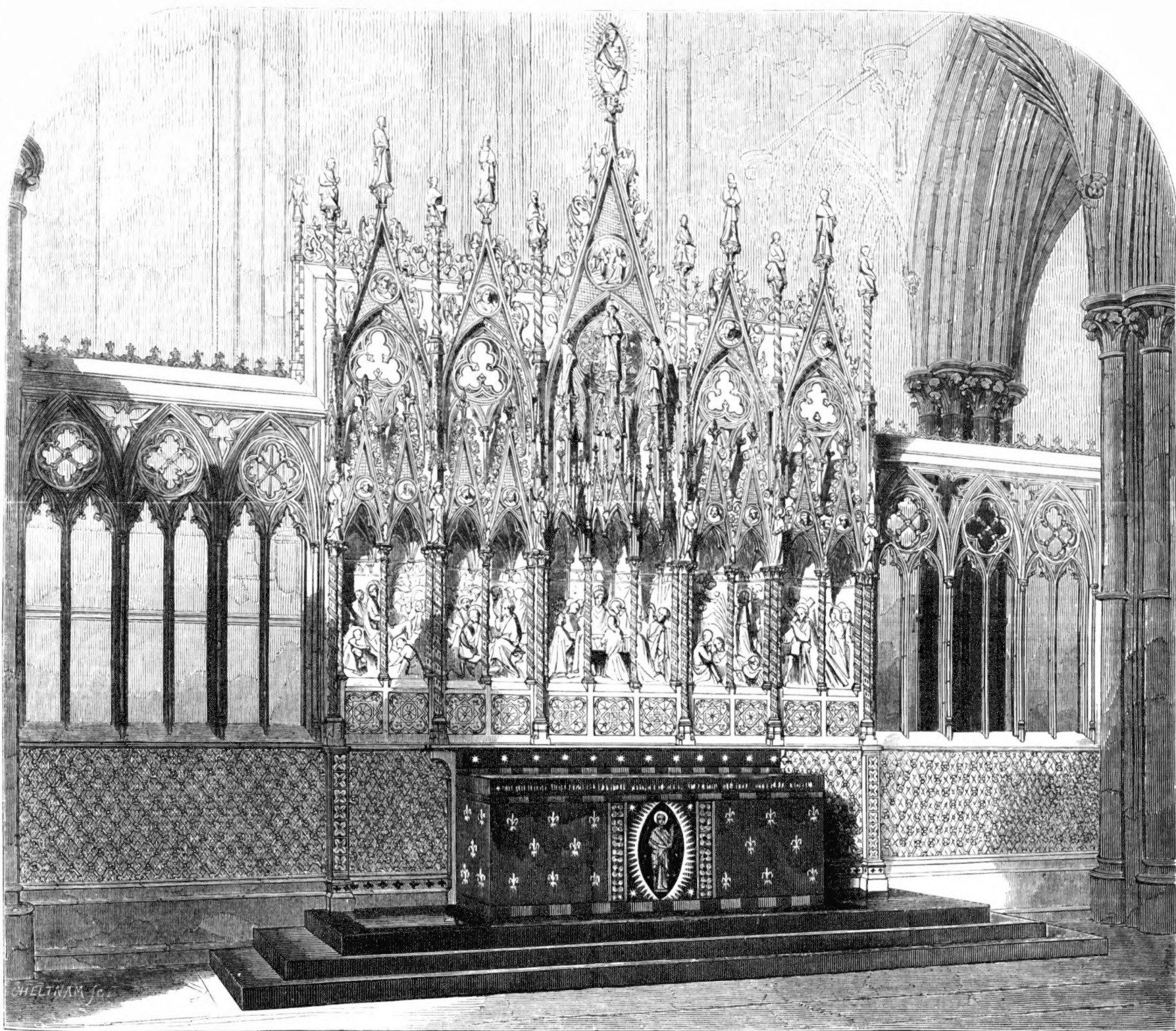
expresses tower up into the rose-coloured skies of evening; and the massive Moorish houses, with rooms all looking into interior courts, and little slits on the outside, peep out from among the olives in picturesque seclusion. But within the ports, the suburbs, and the neighbouring roads, is to be seen the strangest admixture of France—*cafés* and *restaurants*, hotels and *maisons meublées*, milliners, *chasseurs*, and an opera; gay uniforms, and white caps of peasant women, *colons* in blue blouses, and the long black garment of the Catholic priest; bran new French houses, with their own peculiar lively-dirty expression, and Moorish edifices profaned by the introduction of large French sashes and casement windows; finally, a collection of trundling old omnibuses, apparently the refuse of Paris, and which look as if they never were washed from one year's end to the other. Most ludicrous it is to see these rumbling vehicles full of *militaires* and Moorish women, swaddled up to the eyes in white cloths. Sometimes one may see a whole omnibus full of these ghastly figures, going off to perform acts of pious reverence at the burial grounds; and the combinations of ideas involved in such a procession so conducted, is absurd to the last degree.

#### THE POPULATION AND ITS CHARACTERISTICS.

The most cursory walk is full of intense interest. One sees representa-

tives of every nation and every costume—Arabs, Moors, Kabyles, Jews, Negroes, French, English, Maltese, Italians; Spaniards in black velvet hats, French *bonnes* with children; the elaborately-attired Parisienne, with petticoats sticking out like a balloon, velvet cloak, and little bonnet with feathers, going off to mass, with her purple-velvet Prayer-book studded with gold stars; and the ghost-like white women prowling about, with only a tiny scrap of their withered faces to be seen. I send you a sketch of a street in the old part of the town, where are to be seen massive houses with projecting upper storeys, occasionally supported by bars running across from one to the other; sometimes they meet overhead, forming dark passages, from which when the Moorish women emerge in their white dresses, they look like apparitions. I also send you a sketch of a little Moorish child sitting on a door-step; and a group of Arabs playing at draughts. Pray, admire the sublime gravity with which these children of the desert amuse themselves, and the repose of the looker-on. The draught-board used here is all of one colour, and the squares are marked by depressions on the surface. One army of counters are flat and round, like ours; the others stand up like chess pawns. They play with great rapidity, snapping up the enemy with amusing vehemence; but I believe

the game is somewhat different to that we play, as they are not obliged to "take," and there is consequently no "huffing." The long white garment, which, as you see, sticks up in a peaked cap over the head, is the universal bournouse. It is all in one piece, and falls down to meet the full-bagged trousers, out of which come the bare legs, which disappear from sight when their owners are sitting, as in the woodcut. My friend the artist has also represented a calm sea and clear sky; but, alas! these are often interrupted in this season by heavy rains, and the short twilight ushers in fresh, cold nights—not, however, too cold for the oranges which cluster upon the trees, "golden lamps in a green night." An Englishman emphatically remarked of the stars in the warm nights of two months back, that they were "as big as bull's-eyes;" and the evenings are certainly most beautiful, when the deep rose of sunset fades in a clear dark grayish blue, and the moon hangs in the heaven, the dark part of her circle glimmering faintly beyond the arc. There is snow on the distant peaks of the little Atlas; but here the weather is about equal to ours in May. I have already seen a host of curious natural and social phenomena; but the bi-weekly post leaves to-morrow, and I must close my packet, and confide it the tender mercies of the Mediterranean waters.



THE NEW REREDOS IN ELY CATHEDRAL.

#### THE NEW REREDOS IN ELY CATHEDRAL.

By a noble instance of private munificence, seconded by the skill of that modern *rara avis*, an art-architect, the choir of Ely Cathedral has recently been enriched in a manner which completely reflects the spirit and devotional feeling of those master-minds which bequeathed to us, in the building itself, such evidences of noble conception and profound art.

The reredos which is the subject of our engraving and notice, has been erected at the cost of John Drum Gardner, Esq., from the designs of Geo. Gilbert Scott, Esq., A.R.A., upon whose ability and eminence, working in a national spirit—the only spirit by which architecture as an art ever became or ever can become great—it would be superfluous for us to dwell.

This work, which is in the shape of a screen, stretching from north to south, is divided into three sections, the side portions being comparatively plain in character and executed in a somewhat ordinary material—a whitish stone called "clunch;" while the central portion (the reredos proper) is distinguished by a most remarkable display of intricate tabernacle work. Here pinnacle and spire, lightly wrought in a delicate alabaster, rise amidst gables, niches, and a perfect net-work of tenderly sculptured detail. Throughout this elaborate work are introduced many statuettes and busts of saints and angels, and surmounting the central and highest gable is a figure, wrought in metal, of the "Church" glorified; the whole forming a splendid framework or shrine for the principal sculptures of the composition, the subjects of which have been derived from incidents in the life of our Lord, as follows:—"The Entry into Jerusalem;" "Washing Peter's Feet;" "Last Supper;" "Agony in the Garden;" "Bearing the Cross."

These subjects have in the most skilful manner been treated in alto-relievo.

The design also comprises decorations in colour, brightened with gold; the numerous spandrels, panels, and twisted columns, being dignified with brilliant mosaics worked in Brazilian cornelians and other chromatic pebbles.

The principal sculptor employed in the work was Mr. J. B. Philip, of Pimlico, to whom is due the praise for the great skill exhibited in the relievi-statuettes, and such portions of the work. Our meed of praise is also due to the late Mr. Ratter, of Cambridge, by whom the mechanical portions and foliated carving of the reredos were executed. The decorations in polychrome are, we believe, by Mr. Octavius Hudson, of Marlborough House.

Etheldreda, daughter of Anna, King of East Anglia, and wife of Oswy, King of Northumberland, founded a monastery in Ely shortly after she retired there, in 670. In 870, says the authority from which we derive these particulars, the abbey was pillaged and destroyed by the Danes, and all its revenues were annexed to the crown, which retained them till the time of Edgar; who in 970 granted the isle with all its appurtenances, privileges, &c., to Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester, who built the monastery and filled it with monks.

The isle was gallantly defended against William the Conqueror. After repeated attacks the inhabitants were, however, obliged to surrender; many of them were put to the sword, and most of the valuable furniture and jewels of the monastery were seized; but through the firmness of Theodwin, who had been made abbot, the property was restored. In 1107, Ely

was erected into a bishopric by Henry I., and Hervey, Bishop of Bangor was appointed to the see. The lands of the monastery were divided between the bishopric and the monks, and the monastery was governed by the Prior, who was called the Lord Prior. Henry VIII., after the surrender of the monastery, granted a charter to convert the conventual church into a cathedral, by the title of the Cathedral Church of the Undivided Trinity. The Cathedral of Ely is the workmanship of many different periods, and displays a singular mixture of styles of architecture; but taken as a whole, it is a noble structure. The most ancient part is the transept, which was erected in the reigns of William Rufus and Henry I. The nave and great western tower were built in 1174, and the other parts of the edifice, which consist of a nave, transept, an octagon tower, choir, anti-choir, Trinity chapel, Galilee porch, &c., were erected at different periods between that time and the year 1534.

The interior is exceedingly beautiful; the nave is supported by lofty columns, almost without ornament, which perhaps adds to the imposing effect. The octagon tower combines solidity with gracefulness probably more than any other building of the kind in Great Britain; and the choir is a perfect specimen of the early English style of pointed architecture. The stalls are beautiful specimens of wood carving. The Lady Chapel is a splendid and most elaborate example of the early English style. The whole length of the cathedral, including the Galilee porch, is 517 feet; and the western tower, which is of exquisite workmanship, is 270 feet high. There are many interesting monuments, among which are the tomb and effigies of Bishop Alcock, and that of Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester.



## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XXXV.

## THE LATE DIVISION.

It is now generally admitted that "the men who ought to have known" what would be the result of the division on the Canton debate, did not know. It is said that the Conservative hook turned out to be right within four or five, but that the Government "Whips" were all in the wrong. This is not to be wondered at. When such a large number divides, it is next to impossible to calculate the result with accuracy; and it must have been entirely so on this occasion, for up to the last hour there were many Members who had not made up their minds how to vote; and some of these, at the last moment, cut the Gordian knot by slipping out of the House when the division was called. But notwithstanding that the confusion of parties puzzled the "Whips," so that accurate calculations were impossible, it is generally confessed that the result surprised both sides.

## SIGNS OF A DISSOLUTION.—COPPOCK ON THE WING.

However, the blow is struck, and in about three weeks Parliament will be dissolved; and the Members, "like youthful steers unyoked, will take their courses east, west, north, and south." Already are there symptoms of the grand coming event, and signs that the field of battle is to be changed from the floor of the House to the hustings. Many of the members are already gone down to canvass their constituents. Coppock is nightly in close attendance in the lobby, and is anxiously seized by the arm by those members who require his professional services. The knowledge of this gentleman is astonishing. Not only does he know all the Liberal members, but their whole political history; how they got into the House, and their present position with their constituents; and can weigh with the nicest accuracy the probabilities of their return. Long experience has "made him sage" in these matters. These general elections are Coppock's harvest, and capital harvests they are, no doubt. First, there is the rich and full sheaf which the contests present, and then some nice quiet gleanings in the committee-rooms of the House when the questions of disputed seats come to be settled. Many people suppose that this gentleman is an incarnation of electioneering corruption, and that there is never any mischief of this sort going on but he is at the bottom of it. But this is all a mistake. Mr. Coppock is simply an Electioneering Agent—like any other Electioneering Agent—only that his practice is not confined to a locality, but covers the whole kingdom. And we believe that he never counsels bribery, or any other infraction of the law; but, on the contrary, discourages all malpractices of this kind with all his might; although if his clients will get themselves into difficulties by adopting dishonest means of securing their elections, he is no doubt quite ready with his professional assistance, as any other lawyer would be to keep them out, for a consideration. Mr. Coppock is a lawyer—neither more nor less, and neither better nor worse than his class. And whilst one lawyer practices at the Old Bailey in prosecuting thieves, and another in defending; one sticks to conveyancing, and another prefers the Courts, Mr. Coppock has adopted the parliamentary as his practice, and advises and assists, and furthers the views of gentlemen of liberal opinions, aspiring to senatorial honours. This is simply the difference between Mr. Coppock and others of the legal profession. Mr. Coppock, though his name is often before the world, is not alone in his profession; there are several stars of lesser magnitude on the Reform side, whilst on the Conservative, Mr. Rose, of the firm of Bexter, Rose, and Norton, is recognised as the chief. Of this gentleman, however, but little is known; he is at present new to his office, and must live long before he can attain to the celebrity of Mr. Coppock. That he is, however, the agent of the Tories is well known at the Carlton, and proved by his constant presence in the Lobby, in close consultation with the Tory chiefs, when "anything is in the wind;" and it occurs to us here to say, that these gentlemen not only appear when an election is at hand, flitting across the Lobby, haunting the clubs, and scudding up and down Pall Mall, but are to be seen whenever there is any likelihood of a sharp debate and close division. Like stormy petrels, they always make their appearance when there are signs of "dirty weather."

## DEPUTATIONS.

Another sign of the times is the constant arrival of deputations from the country. Every night now the Lobby is filled by knots of country-looking strangers, who have come up to town to know what their Members mean to do, or to find a candidate for some vacant place, or some champion of Conservative or popular views to storm some Tory or Radical stronghold. And very curious people they are in such a place. For instance, what a strange group is that which has just entered the Lobby. The tall man, in dirty white neckcloth, and seedy black coat, that surely is a preacher of some sort, or it may be a shopkeeper of the high Calvinistic persuasion, for this class, we have noticed in our travels, generally affect a clerical appearance. That short, fat man, in broad-brimmed hat, square cut brown coat, and topped boots, is a publican, or it may be a butcher, or cattle jobber; whilst the man in the drab shell, low-crowned hat, with large horn buttons on his light-coloured frock-coat, is a miller or corn-chandler. See, they have got hold of their Member, and he is taking them away to some quiet corner. They are from the North, and from what we heard the other night, want to bring out a second Liberal to oust "the blue." To which movement the present Liberal Member is, naturally enough, not particularly favourable, although our top-booted friend is "certain sure that if they had the right man they could whop the 'blues' like a sack, but then he must be a regular dooble milled un to do it." What a strange scene is this Lobby. Close by the side of this singular group stood two Hindoos, flaming in gorgeous costume, and a Parsee in plainer dress. And whilst they were talking to their Member, the Duke of Cambridge brushed by; and afterwards Dr. Livingstone, the celebrated traveller; and later in the evening, the Russian Ambassador and the black Haytian *chargé d'affaires*, passed into the House.

## CURIOUS ACCIDENT—GLADSTONE NAPPING.

On Thursday night, motion was made that the Income-tax Bill be read a second time, which was opposed by Mr. Gladstone, and it was said that he intended to divide the House. If, however, he did, his intention was frustrated in the following manner. After the discussion had gone on for some time, Lord Harry Vane arose, and whilst he was speaking Lord John Russell crossed the gangway and engaged in an earnest conversation with Mr. Gladstone; and so absorbed were they both that they quite lost all consciousness of what was going on in the House, and when Lord Harry Vane sat down, and nobody arose, Mr. Speaker put the question, of course. The Bill was read a second time, the next order was called, which was "supply." The House resolved into committee, and Sir Charles Wood began the Naval Estimates, and it was only when the familiar voice of his old colleague broke upon the ear of Mr. Gladstone, that he awoke up to the consciousness that whilst he had been talking, the House had left him and his opposition entirely behind.

## MR. SPEAKER'S RETIREMENT.

In three weeks from this time, or thereabouts, the Right Hon. Charles Shaw Lefevre, who has for eighteen years occupied the Chair of the House of Commons, as its Speaker, will vanish from the scene which he has so long adorned, and "the place which knows him now, will know him no more for ever." For a long time past rumours have been afloat that this would be his last Parliament, but it was not until last Monday that he formally announced that he really intended to retire. As soon as this announcement had been made, Lord Palmerston gave notice that on the following day he should move a vote of thanks to the Right Hon. Gentleman, and also an address to the Crown, praying that a suitable acknowledgment may be made for his long and faithful services. It was no wonder then that on Tuesday afternoon, at half-past four, the House was unusually full, for what Member of the House who could possibly get down, would fail to be present to show his respect to so old and faithful a servant; and not only was the House full, but the galleries were crowded, and the space devoted to the Peers was so full that some of the occupants were obliged to stand and look over one another's shoulders. We have no intention, however, now to do more than allude to the interesting and touching ceremony of that evening. Next week we shall publish an engraving of "Mr. Speaker returning thanks;" and shall then give a detailed account of the proceedings, a succinct biography of the Right Hon. Gentleman, together with any other matters and things which we may deem interesting to our readers.

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords met only for a few minutes on Friday, and transacted no business of public importance.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## THE PERSIAN WAR.

Mr. LAYARD observed that the House had a right, before it separated, to some information respecting the history of the war with Persia, by having the papers, or a selection of them, laid before the House.

Mr. V. SMITH observed that documents of this nature were not promulgated, according to diplomatic practice, until the ratifications had been exchanged.

Mr. GLADSTONE contended that some estimate of the anticipated cost of the Persian war should be presented to the House before the dissolution, in order that some opportunity might be afforded to discuss the question.

## THE RESOLUTE.

Mr. EVELYN called attention to the treatment which the Arctic ship *Resolute* had received at the hands of the Admiralty.

Sir C. WOOD explained that the course pursued with regard to that vessel had been adopted simply for the sake of her preservation.

## WAYS AND MEANS.

On the order for going into a Committee of Ways and Means,

Mr. DISRAELI said he had no wish to disturb the balance between direct and indirect taxation; and although he had been of opinion that by an economy of expenditure any material addition to the taxation might be avoided, he had been prepared to give every assistance to the Government consistent with the settlement of 1853. But the state of things was now altered. Lord Palmerston had stated the intention of the Government to appeal to the people. In what circumstances, then, did the House find itself? How could a moribund House, which could not bind a new House upon the subject of war, bind it in respect to taxation? A new budget might be introduced in May, and it would be much better, in his opinion, for the new House of Commons to deal with the subject of taxation. He hoped, therefore, that the House would well consider before it consented to grant new taxes, and he should support the motion of Mr. Gladstone for not increasing (or suspending the decline of) the duties upon tea and sugar.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said it would be competent to the new House of Commons to alter the rate of duties he proposed, but it was necessary to deal with the subject of taxation for the interval between the end of the financial year and the commencement of the legislative action of the new Parliament.

Mr. ROBERTS argued in favour of reducing the tax on tea rather than that upon property.

Mr. T. BAKING deprecated unwise parsimony. The House, he said, ought not, at the close of its existence, to sanction reductions which might denude the Exchequer of necessary revenue.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY considered that Parliament was bound to take off the whole of the war taxes, and, if there should prove to be a deficiency, to look out for other objects of taxation.

The House then went into committee.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER moved a resolution for reducing the customs duty on tea from 1s. 9d. to 1s. 6d. per pound. In supporting this motion, he entered into some detailed explanations respecting the change which had been effected in the rates of various taxes since the conclusion of the war. In his original propositions he had suggested a rate of tea duty at 1s. 7d. The loss resulting from the further reduction now proposed he computed at half a million. He deemed that his financial scheme deserved to be characterised as a retrogression from the principle of free trade.

Mr. GLADSTONE associated free trade with a reduction of burdens upon articles of general consumption; and this principle had, in his opinion, been violated by the Government. He proceeded to argue that the expenditure should be decided before they granted ways and means; that an expiring House should not levy new taxes on the people, and that it was ungenerous to relieve the wealthy classes of income-tax while imposing heavier duties on the tea and sugar which contributed to the comfort of the humble portions of the community. In place of the Government proposal, Mr. Gladstone declared his intention of moving that the tea duty should fall to 1s. 3d. in April, and to 1s. at the end of the ensuing financial year. This in fact was to maintain the existing arrangement, which had obtained the sanction of all parties in the House. For any deficiency in the revenue, he looked to a reduction of expenditure as affording a sure means for restoring an equilibrium.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said Mr. Gladstone had represented the Budget unfairly as one of increased taxation; but a reduction of the duty on tea from 1s. 9d. to 1s. 6d., instead of to 1s. 3d., although a less reduction, was still a reduction, and not an increase of the duty. Sir G. Lewis then reviewed and replied to the other portions of Mr. Gladstone's speech.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL approved of the Government proposal, as now modified. It dealt with taxation on fair principles, dividing whatever remissions could safely be allowed in pretty equal proportions between direct and indirect imposts, and affording relief both to the possessors of property and the general body of consumers.

Mr. RICARDO insisted that the Government scheme violated a formal compact made with the dealers in tea and sugar. He complained of the injustice and embarrassment suffered through the present system of classification in the duties on the latter article.

The original motion was supported by Mr. Gregson and Mr. Pollard-Urquhart.

Mr. GIBSON contended that this was a proposal to increase the duty upon tea beyond what it would be if the law were left alone, and that the estimates could and would be reduced far more than equal to a 2d. duty on tea. He should vote for the amendment.

The debate then acquired the desultory character of an ordinary discussion in a committee.

Upon a division, Mr. Gladstone's amendment—that the duty after the 5th of April, 1857, shall be 1s. 3d. per lb.—was negatived by 187 to 125.

The original resolution, fixing the duty at 1s. 6d., was then agreed to.

Other resolutions, moved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, fixing the duties upon sugar and certain other customisable articles, were likewise agreed to.

## MONDAY, MARCH 9.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## THE OPIUM TRADE.

The Earl of SHAFFESBURY moved that certain queries should be submitted to the judges touching the legality of the arrangements made by the East India Company for the cultivation of the poppy in India, and the sale of opium in China. This trade, from which the company realised a large revenue, was, he contended, carried on by pandering to a destructive vice, and infringing the law of the Chinese Empire. He enlarged upon the disgraceful character of the traffic upon the immorality to which it administered, and the violation of international law by which it was necessarily accompanied.

The LORD CHANCELLOR showed reasons for concluding that the proposed references to the judges on the legal question would be useless and inexpedient. It would be trying the whole Government of India unheard. The question as to the legality of the trade, however, might be submitted privately for the opinion of the law officers of the Crown.

Earl GRANVILLE denied most distinctly that the smuggling of opium into China was encouraged or connived at by the colonial authorities.

After some further discussion, the motion was withdrawn, upon the understanding that the question of legality should be submitted to the law officers of the Crown. The House, however, would not be bound by their decision.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## RETIREMENT OF THE SPEAKER.

The SPEAKER announced his intention to retire at the close of the present Parliament from the duties of his office. In a brief address he expressed his regret at the severance of his connection with the House of Commons, and his acknowledgments for the courteous support he had received from all sides in the performance of the functions he had exercised for eighteen years.

Lord PALMERSTON, after testifying to the regret which all members felt at the announcement, gave notice that he should, on the next evening, move a vote of thanks to the Right Hon. Gentleman for his long services in the chair, proposing also to memorialise the Crown, praying her Majesty to bestow upon him some special token of her favour.

## THE INCOME-TAX.

On the order for the second reading of the Income-tax Bill, Mr. DISRAELI, with reference to the dispute with Persia, observed that reasonable terms had been offered at Constantinople, which had been rejected; this rejection could not have cost the country less than £500,000; and he wanted to know, if half a dozen of these difficulties occurred every year, costing upon an average £500,000 each, how, under this turbulent and aggressive system of diplomacy, the Income-tax even of 7d. could be taken off? He did not feel justified in opposing the Bill, or any measure calculated to increase our resources, but he advised a more conciliatory foreign policy.

After a somewhat discursive debate, Lord PALMERSTON denied that his foreign policy had been aggressive. The allegation, he said, was intended to be of service on the hustings; but he was assured that the British public were too well informed to be swayed by it.

Mr. GLADSTONE, considering that Lord Palmerston had challenged the approbation of the House of the foreign policy of the Government, briefly reviewed that policy as respected Persia, Naples (where, he thought, we had done either too much or too little), China, and America.

Lord J. RUSSELL observed that the result of our proceedings at Naples had

shown the inconvenience of the course which the Government had pursued; but he dissented from the proposal to resume our diplomatic relations with the King of the Two Sicilies. He rejoiced to learn that the war with Persia had been terminated by a satisfactory treaty. The Noble Lord then diverged into the question of maritime law, with reference to the rights of neutrals in the time of war, and the proposition of the United States to exempt the ships and goods of private merchants and of belligerents from capture. If we were to agree to this proposition, he said, we should be exposed more frequently to war, and in war we should be almost helpless at sea.

Sir C. NAPIER intimated his full concurrence with Lord J. Russell on the question of maritime rights.

Mr. CORRY said he totally differed from Lord J. Russell upon the subject of the United States' proposition, and that at the proper moment he would offer arguments which, he thought, might change Lord John's opinion.

This desultory discussion was continued by Mr. Drummond, Mr. Newdegate, Mr. Milnes, Mr. Whiteside, and Sir F. Kelly.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in the course of a reply to objections regarding the Income-tax, stated that no answer had been made to the proposition of the United States, which was under the consideration of her Majesty's Government, who would not come to a hasty conclusion upon the subject.

After some words from Lord H. Vane, the bill was read a second time.

## THE NAVY ESTIMATES.

The House having resolved itself into a Committee of Supply on the Navy Estimates.

Sir C. WOOD said, as he proposed to take votes on account, he did not think it necessary to go at length into the different items. He should move a vote for the number of men (35,700 seamen and 15,000 Marines) for four months only, and the money votes he should ask were one-third of the estimates, amounting in the aggregate to £2,700,000.

The several votes were agreed to, after discussion.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 10.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE sitting of the House of Lords was principally occupied in a discussion upon standing orders relative to the arrangements which should be adopted in taking divisions in their Lordships' House.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## VOTE OF THANKS TO THE SPEAKER.

Lord PALMERSTON moved a vote of thanks to the Speaker for the ability, impartiality, and urbanity he had displayed during his long presidency over the debates of that House. The Noble Lord dwelt upon the onerous nature of the duties which the Speaker was required to fulfil, and bore testimony to the firmness, integrity, and courtesy with which Mr. Shaw Lefevre had fulfilled them during a period of eighteen years.

Mr. DISRAELI, speaking on behalf of the Opposition members, expressed their full concurrence in the sentiment of approval and regret, which had fallen from the lips of the Premier, and seconded the motion.

Lord J. RUSSELL added his cordial concurrence in the vote, observing that the proper conduct of the ordinary business of the House had been greatly facilitated by the Speaker, who had marked the line where it was wise to concede, and where it was necessary to resist, innovation on established forms.

The motion was carried by acclamation, as was also a supplemental resolution, proposed by the Prime Minister, for an address to the Crown, praying that a special mark of Royal favour should be conferred upon Mr. Lefevre, in pursuance of precedents set on other similar occasions.

The SPEAKER, in a tone of deep feeling—every member of the House uncovering—returned his grateful thanks for this crowning mark of the favour and approbation of the House.

## GRIEVANCES OF THE LAND TRANSPORT CORPS.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE called attention to the grievances complained of in the petitions of the non-commissioned officers and the drivers of the Land Transport Corps who served during the late war in the Crimea, and moved that they be referred to a Select Committee.

The motion was seconded by Sir W. Cudington; and after some remarks from Mr. F. Peel, Sir J. Tyrrell, and Sir J. Fergusson, was agreed to.

## INCOME TAX.

The House having resolved itself into a committee upon the Income-tax Bill, Sir F. KELLY, after a general protest against this first departure, as he deemed it, from the policy of the Act of 1853, whereby that Act might become a dead letter, moved to substitute 5d. for 7d. in the pound in the tax upon incomes for the ensuing year.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER contended that the occurrence of the war had both legally and morally cancelled all previous arrangements, and though peace had returned, there were various liabilities left behind, which rendered a return to the compact of 1853 practically impossible.

The motion was negatived without a division.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS moved, as another amendment, that incomes between £100 and £150 per annum should be exempted from the tax.

This amendment was seconded by Mr. A. PELLIAT and opposed by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, who remarked that, in the original income-tax proposed by Mr. Pitt, revenues as low as £60 per annum were made subject to the impost, the rates generally being far higher than as at present arranged.

After some discussion a division was taken, and the amendment negatived by a majority of 53 to 46. The bill then went through committee.

## SUPPLY.

On the report of the Committee of Supply, Mr. GLADSTONE moved a resolution that, in order to secure to the country that relief from taxation which it justly expects, it is necessary to revise and further reduce the expenditure of the State. The position of the House, he said, was peculiar and unexampled. Strong objections were entertained to the amount of the Estimates, and, had the deliberations of the House not been affected by the prospect of a dissolution, the House would probably have remitted the Estimates to the Government for further reduction. The effect of his motion was merely to refer back the Estimates to the Government for reduction, or to express an opinion that they should, during the interval before the next Parliament, apply themselves to the examination of the Estimates, with a view to a reduction of expenditure. He made the motion, he said, upon two grounds: first, that there did not appear to be an adequate provision for the exigencies of the year; and, second, that the expenditure of the country had not of late been kept under due control, but had increased to a point which had become embarrassing, and which threatened to become even alarming. He then went into details to show that a deficiency of revenue stared the House in the face, and that the expenditure was too high, comparing the estimates with those of preceding years. Mr. Gladstone concluded by stating that he left his resolution in the hands of the House, without intending to challenge a division, or to interrupt the business of granting supply votes on account of the current expenditure.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS seconded the resolution.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER admitted that the subject demanded the most serious consideration. Nevertheless he contended that many of the statements urged by Mr. Gladstone were overcharged. The revenue and expenditure of the ensuing financial year were brought, he believed, into a satisfactory equilibrium, and he justified the arrangements by which the adjustment had been effected. With regard to the present estimates, he remarked that the vote of money on account in no way committed the future Parliament to accept the amounts proposed by Government, nor, on the other, would any resolution now adopted impose any pledge of economy or retrenchment upon the succeeding Legislature. As an abstract proposition, he fully concurred in the principle set forth in the resolution just proposed.

After some remarks by Mr. Glyn and Mr. Newdegate,

Mr. DISRAELI protested against a proposal thrown out in the course of the discussion to refer the estimates, which ought to be framed upon the responsibility of the Government, to a committee, and expressed a hope that the new Parliament would hold the Government well to their duty.

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY said a few words, and the amendment was then negatived.

The report of the supply votes was agreed to.

Several continuance bills having been advanced a stage, and other routine business done, the House adjourned.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Ecclesiastical Corporations Bill having been read a second time, and the second reading of the Imprisonment for Debt Bill having been negatived, the House went into committee of supply.

## SUPPLY.

The following votes were agreed to:—£21,049,700 for the discharge of Exchequer bills payable in 1857, and at present unprovided for; £1,563,200 on account for the charge of certain civil services till March 31, 1858. In reference to this vote, which embraces the educational grant,

Sir J. PAKINGTON protested against the growing increase of the educational estimates. If he obtained a seat in the next Parliament, he would show that these large grants were inexpedient, because the country did not receive an adequate return for the outlay.

Sir G. GREY differed entirely from the Right Hon. Baronet, but hoped the subject would be fully debated in the next Parliament.

Mr. HENLEY also believed that these grants were great stimulants to education, and doubted whether they had been improperly applied.

Mr. E. DENISON concurred with those who thought we must look to an extension of the existing system rather than any new or general scheme for improving the education of the people; and when Parliament met again, he hoped the views of the Government upon the subject would be given on the earliest opportunity.

Sir G. GREY replied that this would be done by the new President of the Council of Education on moving the remainder of the vote.



Mr. FARRANT viewed these grants only as temporary expedients, to be abandoned when Parliament could be brought to pass some general system based upon the principles of local self-government.

The next vote was £1,910,000 on account of the charge of the Revenue Department—an item in which Mr. Wilson said there will be a gradual increase from year to year, as the trade of the country expands. At present, the great increase was in the postal department. Within the last three years, no less than 170 rural post-offices had been opened; but, although our postal establishments do not yield any revenue, the returns pay their expenses, and considering the service they render the public, the result ought to be considered satisfactory.

The House then resumed, and, after the transaction of some routine business, adjourned.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 12.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## THE CHINESE WAR.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH, in moving for papers relating to the transactions in China, took occasion to criticise the manner in which the operations appeared to have been conducted; and, after urging many queries respecting the plans and intentions of the Government, offered various suggestions as to the best manner of sending out forces and arranging a plan of campaign against the Chinese.

Lord PARNHAM replied and explained. A plenipotentiary was, he said, to be despatched to Hong Kong, and every effort would be made to effect a pacific solution of the present controversy. Meanwhile, it had been determined to send additional troops, not from India but from England, the Himalaya steamer being employed both as transport and floating barracks for the soldiers until required for service on shore. Various preparations had been made, which the Secretary for War described in some detail, to facilitate the military operations and preserve the health of the men.

Earl GREY, the Earl of CLARENDON, and other Peers having added some further remarks, the subject dropped. No other subject of importance came before the House.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## PRIVATE BILLS.

On the motion of Mr. FITZROY, a series of resolutions were agreed to, enabling the promoters of private bills to resume progress in the next Parliament at the stage to which the measures should have respectively attained at the approaching dissolution.

## SIR JOHN M'NEILL AND COLONEL TULLOCH.

Mr. PALK moved a resolution, setting forth the opinion that Sir John M'Neill and Colonel Tulloch had ably fulfilled the duty entrusted to them, and that the conclusions presented in their report had been materially supported by the evidence collected before the Chelsea Board of Commissioners, proving that great inefficiency existed in the Quartermaster-General's, the Commissariat, and the Transport departments in the Crimean army.

The motion was seconded by Mr. BLACK, who wished to see some mark of approbation conferred upon the two commissioners, both by way of recognition of the services they had so faithfully performed, and as a means for securing better care and more ample provision hereafter for brave soldiers sent upon foreign service.

Lord PALMERSTON considered the resolution now offered to be ill-timed. The period had long passed when it would have had any practical utility.

Sir J. FITZGERALD opposed the resolution, as did General PELL, who objected to cast censure upon the authorities entrusted with the command of departments in the Crimea, who had, as he believed, done everything possible, under the difficult circumstances with which they had to contend.

Mr. SIDNEY HERBERT, while vindicating the intentions of the Government to which he had belonged, admitted that they had erred in attempting too much. He proposed that the resolution should be modified by leaving out all the clauses attributing blame to the departments, and leaving only the expression of an opinion that the services of Colonel Tulloch and Sir J. M'Neill deserved some further recognition.

This proposal having been opposed by Sir J. Pakington and Mr. Ewart, Lord PALMERSTON intimated that the Government had no wish to interfere between the functionaries in question and the gratitude of the House.

## The resolution was amended was agreed to.

## ARMY ESTIMATES.

The House having gone into Committee of Supply, Mr. F. PELL, with a brief preface, brought forward a series of votes on account of the army service. The sums asked for were, as in the case of the navy, computed at the amount required to carry on the service for a period of four months. The number of men required for the land forces during the ensuing year was, he observed, 126,796, showing a diminution of 119,920 from the number voted in March last, which was 246,716 men.

The successive votes on account were then passed, amidst the usual miscellaneous conversation.

## INCOME-TAX BILL.

The Income-tax Bill was read a third time, and passed.

## ARMY REFORM.

Sir J. FERGUSON called attention to the present position of non-commissioned officers promoted to commissions in the army during the war. The Hon. Member contrasted the condition of the same officer while holding successively the two degrees of rank, contending that while, as non-commissioned officer, his pay was ample for all necessary expenses, the promotion gave him, as a reward of gallantry, in reality subjected him to constant mortification, and left him exposed to the miseries resulting from an inefficient income. The supposed boon was, in most cases, actually a loss and punishment to the officer selected for promotion.

## THE SPEAKER'S RETIREMENT.

Lord PALMERSTON read the reply of her Majesty to the Address of the House, voted on Tuesday, signifying her Majesty's intention to confer some signal mark of her favour upon the Speaker, and gave notice that he should on Friday move that the House do resolve itself into a committee to consider the subject.

## Literature.

*Friends of Bohemia; or, Phases of London Life.* By E. M. WHITTY. London: Smith and Elder.

A BOHEMIAN (the English have borrowed the phrase from the French) is one who "lives in London and hangs loose on society," as Dr. Johnson said. Bohemia is the region of wild wits, questionable actors, all manner of clever and disrespectful people in art or politics. Of course, it has its own pleasant and satirical view of the big-wigs of the world—and is free in expressing it. Mr. Whitty has adopted the mask and domino of this kind of character, because they afford him a capital opportunity of expressing a really satirical view. But this is all that he has done. There is an earnest kindly heart, with sound manly sentiment at the bottom of it, about the man. He is a thinker as well as a humourist. Let nobody be frightened at the gay rattle of the style; and let nobody be humbugged at the protestations of fellows that it is very bad mustard, while the tears in their eyes all the while show that they taste its force! There is fun, and something better than fun, in the book. As Aristophanes smudged his face with wine-les when he had to appear on the stage, so Mr. Whitty disguises himself partially, for the sake of comic freedom. There is a fine mind beneath the comic surface.

We have had little good satire in our literature of late—not because writers are too amiable now, but because they are too timid or too dull. Hook had the genuine talent; but he was a flunkey in soul, and exhausted himself in ridiculing Bloomers for the amusement of May Fair. Tom Moore was delightfully piquant; but rarely rose above the mark of a drawing-room pea-shooter. Few can boast that they have attacked the giants, as Aristophanes boasts he did, and as Pope and Churchill certainly did. Jerrold is brilliant and bold; Aytoun (within a limited sphere) has great command of rich and humorous ridicule. But we want more, as young Mr. Twist expressed it. It is, therefore, one of the attractions of "Bohemia," (to all but the men castigated), that there is a freshness in the free way in which the writer flings about his satire. While he was sketching the "Governing Classes" his audience was necessarily limited; this book will make him better known. Take a specimen of his lightest vein—of a satirical sketching nearer than we ever remember Mr. Whitty to have produced in the "Leader" days. He is speaking, by-the-by, of a newspaper:—

"The paper came out with a General Moan for Purity in Everything. A controversy between Miss Luthera and somebody else—both agreeing that there was no God—whether there might not be a Devil. Letters from divorcees, against that monstrous anomaly, marriage. There was 'speaking out' in every page. Why should we kill animals for food—fleas for sleep—and so on? These were the questions agitated. The clergymen subscribers, rampant to write, started even a series on the 'Naked Church' that they aspired to: you were to meet on Primrose Hill without umbrellas, and roar a protest against the universe by way of recommending yourself to the Creator. The eminent literary man reviewed Holywell Street, and wrote poems on the Loves of the Flies. The eminent political man wrote up William the Conqueror, Pizarro, and the Corsair, and said that property was a fiction."

"Well," made a sensation: it was fresh. London would like to be a City of Dives, or so—as a novelty. But it got tired of the rant. The first

number or two had exhausted the indecency, and there were no funds left for illustration. The two eminent men, again reduced to community in shoes for visiting days, sent a circular round that they must stop. One of the clergymen, who had not half finished his series on the "Naked Church," came up to town, pledged the church plate, joined with Mr. Laburnumash, the atheist lecturer, and they kept the thing going."

"In good time a man of sedentary habits—Crows will understand what I mean—took up his abode on the premises. Fassell here, who was just on town, full of money, a friend of purity, and devoted to the two eminent men for their fraternal feelings towards him, took up the paper, and set it "a-going" afresh. It made a great sensation again; for Fassell, it was soon rumoured, paid well, and all the clever fellows in London wrote to him. He took their copy—was no hand at revising—and the "Rubbish Shot Here" department, where any one could say what he pleased, startled the town by its grand diversity in blasphemy."

"When the Purity men had cleared Fassell out, and he had become somewhat convinced that elderly females with disturbed systems were not therefore good journalists, he got tired of the concern, and let it out to the last—that is, the most recent—friend he had picked up. This was a young Irishman, of an undisciplined sense of humour, who won Fassell by caricaturing the former set, and proposed to save the paper by turning its battery upon all its former supporters, ignoring the Naked Church and Devil—the last gave great offence—calling every distinguished man an idiot, ridiculing the filth of the masses, jeering the Great Briton, and suggesting sensible cynicism, an enlightened despotism, and cheap foreign wines. This was amusing; but herewith the paper lost one public without getting another, and, while it was going down, it got the last kick from the two eminent men who had started it."

"Fassell now looked to decorous views as a re-action, and he is now sprightly with a melancholy air, in his paper; which is democratic with conservative sympathies, and pledged to resist the Napoleonic system in France—otherwise coming home to our hearts and bosoms as a British organ in a very agreeable and readable manner. Fassell doesn't now lose more than £10 a week on it. That's the career of the "Teaser."

The novel—as a story—is not remarkable. The book in fact is, altogether, a sketchy book. But if the characters do not work to any definite end for the completion of such an elaborate action as alone deserves to be called a plot, still they are characters. Old Jacob Dwyors, of the Jubilee Works, is a real and consistent personage,—might have lived and moved in his little office, inside the roar of hammers and anvils, in his place at Lambeth. And so with Jack Wortley, alias De Vere. Wild adventure, hearty animalism, the sudden acquisition of money without culture, are elements which might easily have produced such a man. Generally, we may say that when the bodies of the characters are not thoroughly filled up, the outlines are still in correct drawing. The figures are sometimes dimly seen, but they are the figures of men and women.

However, the book does not depend on its merits as a novel, but on its style, spirit, and sense as a satire. Take the following bits of portraiture:—

"Do you see this stout gentleman coming along? That's Mr. Jaecetic, the renowned parliamentary agent. He buys and sells England for the Whigs. He would not do it for the Tories; he's a party man. When you want to get into Parliament on liberal principles, you go to Jaecetic, and he says, 'It will cost you £3,000.' And you give him a cheque; and he hands you, if he can (and he generally does what he undertakes on the floor of the House of Commons, not eager to take the oaths, but truthfully anxious to get to a seat. He's the broker of our national disgrace—of our English decadence. He ought to be a villain? Well, he isn't. He says, on all occasions, that it's a shameful system, and that he's sick of it, and that he wishes it done away with. What would you have? It's his business to return Members, and he does return Members 'as instructed,' and by the well understood means of the day. He's an honest man. He would scorn to go into the House of Commons himself: he knows it. Catch it ever asking him, in its most frantic purity-periods, he's got half of it in his pocket, and knows a variety of things about the other half. He's for the ballot. Why, do you think? The Christians say, 'Deliver us from temptation.' The profounder parliamentary agent says, 'Render sin profitless.' His theory is, that you wouldn't give a bribe to a man if you were not sure to know in the end which way he voted. A low view of England, isn't it?"

"There's Mr. Crowner, a veritable London man, as well known and as much part of the metropolis as Temple Bar—a famous man in London, and outside London unknown. For we have our parish heroes just as Little Piddington has. Crowner has lately got up a Commission of Chemists, and has proved that all our tradesmen adulterate all their goods. That ought to suggest a revolution, ought it not? But it hasn't made much sensation; and Crowner hasn't been assaulted or poisoned. The fact is, we expect to be swindled in England. Our constitution, in which nothing is what it says it is, prepares us for that. We do not like what Shylock calls 'the real thing.' A House of Commons really representing the people, and a sovereign really having power, would disgust us. When we ask for coffee, it is understood that we mean 'with a little emery.' When we say a Briton never shall be slave, we mean that he shall never be turned black—that is all. It is a cant against the poor tradesman. The British tradesman, like the rest of us, sets to work in the spirit of the British constitution. Ali Baba, in Britain, takes for granted, when he goes to market, that there is a great proportion of thief in each jar."

"Adulteration is self-defence. Sham begins and sham ends. The sham sovereign who has, or is supposed to have, no power, goes with sham beef-eaters and sham yeomen to open with a sham speech a sham Parliament; a sham sword-bearer on one side of her, and a Lord Chancellor with sham hair on his head on the other. Peers there have a sham costume; and some of the Peersesses have sham lips, sham heels, sham cheeks. They come and go, all there, in carriages emblazoned with sham animals, couchant and rampant over mottoes that are shams, and that nobody acts up to."

Our next passage has a kind of cynical pathos about it, which is at once piquant and sad. A Lady B'aming is visiting one of those wretched alleys where the poor of London starve and die. She meets there a street philosopher, who tells her his experiences about Waterloo Bridge:—

"At nights I beg a penny off swells as is always lulu, going over Waterloo Bridge, and sometimes they give me sixpence, and says, 'And he d— to you!' and I goes on the bridge, and I sits in a harch, and other swell coverts often gives me more coppers than I tho' I never asks, cos I of the policeman. Well, being in the harch, of course I sees the gals throw themselves off. Wery interesting it is!"

"But," exclaimed Lady B'aming, "do you see many?"

"Yes, ma'am, if you please, in this weather. That's curious, that is: the colder the water, the more they makes for it. In summer, scarce one. At Christmas time, Lord, they goes one after another, like boys bathing. They thinks of their homes at Christmas, and—splash—off they goes! I've counted sixteen since the first of December. But no one knows but me—their bodies is never advertised—and nobody cares or hears of 'em, and they improves the whitebait for the swells in the season."

Here is a plea for the indulgence of the imaginative faculty, full of fun and fancy, and with a truth at the bottom of it too:—

"Every one has his Park Lane, his Dream-land, beyond the bills of mortality and the beat of Z 99. What is gained by disbelieving in addresses not found in the 'Post-office Directory'? Don't go to anatomical museums. Saccharina, skinned like the martyr lady, would not be as pretty; but, nevertheless, go and purchase presents for her at Atkinson's or Rimmel's. Don't repeat too often that we must all die: her lips are not dust at present. There's a glorious landscape stretching away before you; and what if there be snake in the grass?—step out boldly. The sanitary reformer will tell Leander that it is bad for health to sleep with Hero's head on his breast, for that they—however they bathe—breathe poison, and are killing one another. Don't attend to him; he's not poetic, or, like Sam Rogers, he's partial to the flesh-brush and not fretting."

"I don't see that the world is much wiser or much happier for facts. I think the Greek shepherd, singing under a blue sky containing to his eyes something more than gas, was happier and more reverent with his mythology, than our Socinian with his one God. I don't object to steam-engines, but I would like to keep the superstitions too. I don't see why astronomy and astrology cannot be alike satellites of truth."

"Analyse the water of the Thames, and, instead of river nymphs, you will find feculent molecules; and how much better are you off? You scorn superstitious, and you come to adulterations. You reduce everything to realities, and you live in London or Manchester smoke. Put down barbaric pomp by all means; the Orders of the Garter and Bath, judges' wigs, beef-eaters, Javelin men, the lion and the unicorn, heraldry, the 'Honi soit' the 'Dieu et mon Droit'; but if barbarians are left behind? Don't believe that God's work, all these anguished ages, is consummated in the prosperity of the manufacture of cotton velvet by Spitalfields weavers, who starve the while. The electricity was not given merely for ordering a hurried supply of false hair, cut from Breton girls' heads for a few francs the chevelure, wanted for the Queen's state ball at Buckingham Palace. Professor Jones knows more than Thales did; but I still can credit a barbarian, with pupils more or less brought up as savages, though neatly clothed. And while the energetic Anglo-Saxon is extirpating the Caffres, I will enjoy my fetish in Park Lane."

"Faiths are onions. The Rev. Mr. Spirtgong and his flock, who revel in crimson and sulphur panoramas of eternal torments, have eaten of the same onion, and the congregation do not object to the preacher's seasoning. The Park Lane onion has its party too. It is an eschalot, a delicate onion, fragrant rather than mordant; it is not a string of coarse stinging bulbs, but a garland of refreshing buds. It does not bring tears to your eyes, but water to your lips. It is less a flavour than a soupcon."

In conclusion, the freedom of the style ought not to frighten anybody: there is nothing in the book to keep it out of the hands of sensible women

or well-regulated families. Once, indeed, two gentlemen "living in a moral Agapemone," are mentioned *à propos* of the "Teaser," but as their lives are not further treated of, nobody's morality need be alarmed. Properly viewed, the book is as innocent as it certainly is clever.

*Lectures on Insanity.* By Dr. FORBES WINSLOW. London: Churchill.

THESE lectures were delivered by Dr. Winslow, as Lettsomian Professor of Medicine, before the Medical Society of London. Such a work offers therefore some guarantee as to the learning and ability of the author. At the same time, nevertheless, it stands at this disadvantage, that a lecture delivered before such an audience, and necessarily with a degree of authoritativeness, cannot be expected to deal with controversial points, or to advance any novel or disputable theory. It is possibly for this reason that the author falls into one or two especial omissions in dealing with his subject. Although the subject may be a delicate one to some professional ears, it is we fancy, scarcely fair to ignore the fact, that the study of the constitution and attributes of the human brain did certainly, under the title of phrenology, some years ago engage the attention of men by no means despicable in point of scientific attainment. Whatever errors may have been committed, whatever false assertions insisted upon, and despite the enormous quantity of ignorance and nonsense put forward by pretenders to its supposititious offspring, craniology, we think Doctor Winslow might advantageously have given us the benefit of his learning and experience upon the question, if question there be, whether the brain be an homogeneous mental apparatus, or a congeries of separate parts each having distinct and peculiar functions. The assumption of the latter hypothesis appears certainly to explain and simplify many phenomena of insanity which without it would appear inexplicable. A phrenological physician, Dr. Rumball, has arrived, through the medium of this theory, at a definition of insanity; a definition which non-phrenologists have long since ceased to seek as hopeless. He pronounces it to be "the undue excitement of one or more organs beyond the control of the others."

Another instance of the reticence of Dr. Winslow may be found in his omitting to hint, in these lectures, at the possibility of the epidemic nature of insanity, although we can scarcely imagine him to be unaware of the theory which in modern times has been brought forward upon this subject. Of course, it is not imagined by the supporters of such a theory, that insanity can, like some skin diseases, be propagated by mere contact. It nevertheless must appear to those who will devote time and reflection to the consideration of experience, that insanity has, in many cases, a strong tendency to multiply itself. And as the disease is itself phrenal or mental, so the means of its propagation must be through a medium which can act upon the brain or mind. A mad poem, or pamphlet, may carry the infection; and even a newspaper record of any extraordinarily striking murder, or other atrocity, is known frequently to engender in weak minds a fierce and insane desire of imitation. But these facts, and the subject of epidemic insanity altogether, are unnoticed by Dr. Winslow, although he passes so closely by the point in question as to quote a saying of Dr. Muller,—"I am at length rewarded, since, after twenty-six years' intercourse with the insane, I have not become insane myself," and also a letter to Pinel, in which it is stated that the labourer in lead-works is thankful if he escapes lameness, and the attendant of a mad-house, if he does not there leave his reason.

The lectures are upon three subjects in connection with insanity—namely, "The Psychological Vocation of the Physician," "The Medical Treatment of Insanity," and "Medico-legal Evidence in Cases of Insanity." In the first of these the author treats of the mutual relation subsistent between the mind and the body, and the consequent control which an experienced physician may frequently acquire and exercise over either, through the medium of the other. Several well-known instances of morbid mental phenomena, as displayed in inhuman cruelty, in crime, in melancholy, and in delusion, are traced by the author to physical disorder; and among those adduced in illustration are the cases of Caligula, Catherine de Medici, Frederick William of Prussia, Judge Jeffreys, Damien, Luther, and Rousseau. "Many a suicide," says Dr. Winslow (the italics are his), "could be prevented, and murderous and criminal impulses destroyed, if an active cathartic could be exhibited or the cerebral circulation relieved and rendered less active by local depletion. There are crimes for which men have been hanged which might have been prevented by physical treatment." The subject is suggestive, and we hope may at no distant period be more fully dilated upon by Dr. Winslow, or some other competent writer. If his position be the true one, the causes and results cannot be restricted to the great alone. Their explanation might reveal and relieve much of the unrecognized insanity of private life. For instance, we would direct the attention of such a writer to one peculiar eccentricity, unhappily not uncommon among aged ladies of the middle and upper classes, and of which a fiendish unappeasable malignity against female servants and dependents is the development. It may possibly appear singular to some that while in these lectures the author sets forth the advantage which may be taken to alleviate bodily suffering by means of moral influences; he also treats mental disorders as curable by physical agents. This is, nevertheless, in accordance with reason and philosophy. It can only be by means of that portion of the system which remains healthy, that disease can possibly be conquered and dispelled. A sound foundation must be given to erect the lever, or it will be powerless. He who puts his shoulder to the wheel must have a firm footing, or his efforts will only drive himself downwards.

It would be idle, as our readers will at once perceive, to endeavour to call to our aid the vocabulary of mere laudation, in reviewing such a work as the one before us—to point out passages as interesting, or to describe the whole as ably conceived or well written. The work is intended as a record of patient and active medical experiences, and as a guide to practical deductions therefrom towards the alleviation of the direct visitation endurable by humanity. As such it is not a book for literary criticism, its grades of style are of scarcely greater importance than the ornaments of its binding, and its value is only to be tested by the future fulfilment of its purpose. We cannot, however, doubt that these lectures are of a character which the student, whether of medical science or of general philosophy, will receive with gratitude and remember with respect.

## THE THRONE-ROOM IN THE SHAH'S PALACE.

AMONG the numerous objects of interest and curiosity in the capital of Persia, the Palace of the Shah is of course one of the most distinguished.

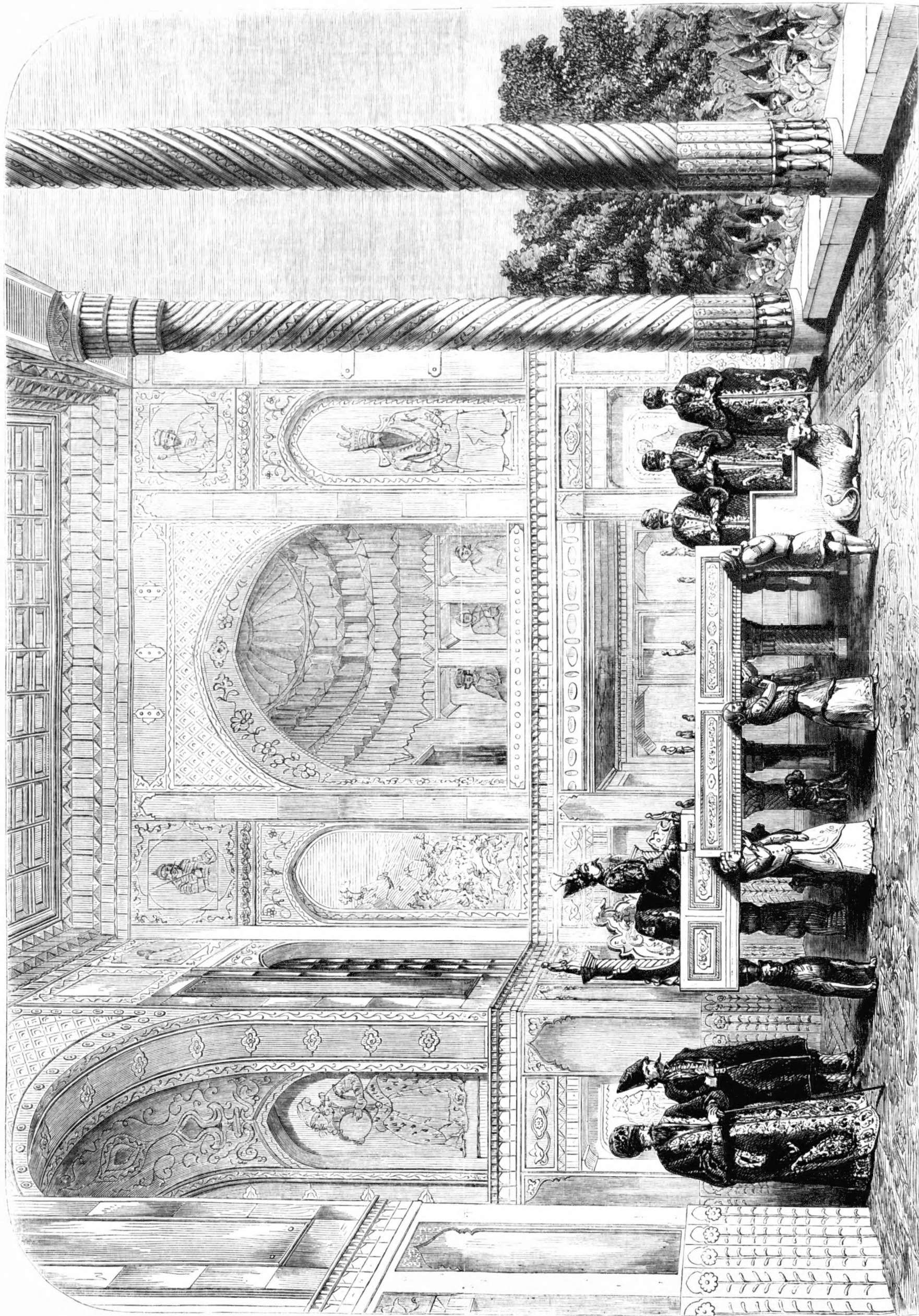
The edifice (one of the principal apartments of which our engraving represents) is altogether remarkable; and especially a new part of it, of which the Shah is said to be very proud. Some of the rooms in the palace are decorated after the Persian fashion, having, on each side, two rows of light pillars, which, as well as the ceilings, are covered with small pieces of looking-glasses. Others are fitted up in the style of European drawing-rooms, papered and ornamented with coloured engravings. The jewel room is a gorgeous apartment, and contains gems of great value. Several of the diamonds and pearls are represented as of amazing size, but so badly set that they appear to disadvantage. Hard by is a china closet, containing many magnificent bowls and jars. One room is fitted up as a library, having glass cases filled with manuscripts, each in a broad cover.

We will not attempt to describe in detail the throne-room of the palace, which is represented in our engraving. It has the reputation of being equal in magnificence to that in the palace of Abbas the Great, at Ispahan. The throne itself, which is supported by sculptured figures, is formed of alabaster. Although it is altogether a modern work, the design is, to some extent, a re-production of the idea indulged in by the ancient Persian artists who sculptured the throne of Darius on the walls of Persepolis.

The incident represented in the engraving is a levee which is being held by the Shah. On occasions such as this, only the few officers of the Shah's household are permitted to be present in the apartment. The great personages of the empire who may come to pay their respects to their Sovereign, are required to perform their obeisances in the adjoining garden; while one of the attendants sprinkles rose water at intervals upon the heads of the kneeling crowd.

Our artist, M. Flandin, who visited the Court of Persia with the French Embassy, enjoyed unusual opportunities for obtaining correct representations of scenes of Persian state and ceremonial; and the sketch we publish this week is not the least interesting among those with which he enriched his portfolio.



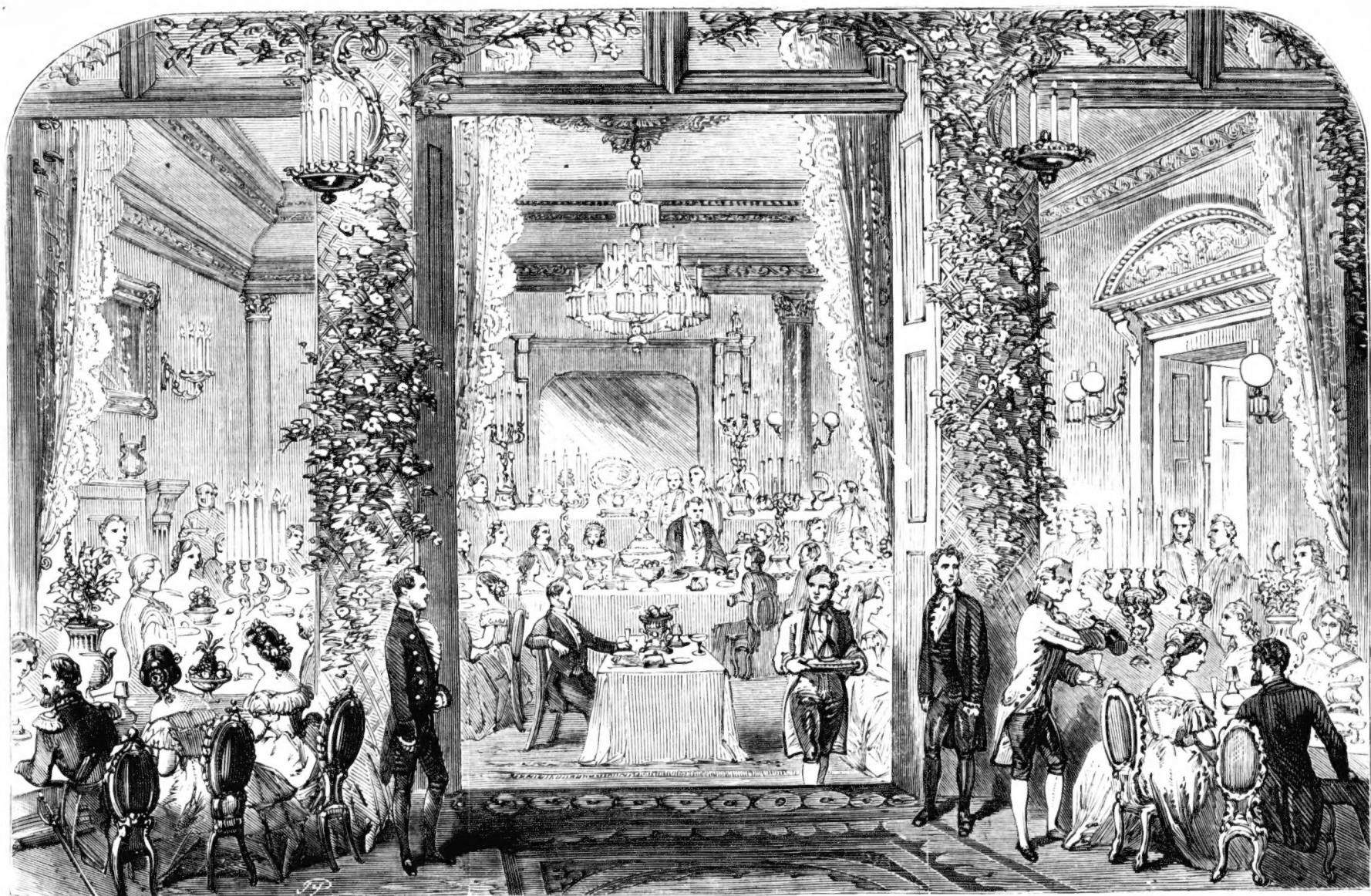


THE SHAH OF PERSIA: THRONE ROOM IN THE PALACE AT TEHERAN.





THE ROTHSCHILD MARRIAGE: THE BRIDAL PRESENTS.



THE BANQUET.



## THE ROTHSCHILD WEDDING.

ON the afternoon of the 4th instant, a marriage, which excited no slight interest in the world of fashion, was celebrated at Gunnersbury Park, near Chiswick. This was the union, by Hebrew ceremonial, of the Baron Alphonse de Rothschild, of Paris, to his cousin Leonora, the youthful daughter of the Baron and Baroness Lionel de Rothschild, the popular head of the family in this country.

In connection with this marriage, it may not be uninteresting to give a short sketch of the rise of the extensive co-partnership known as the House of Rothschild, the impersonation of that money power which governs the world. Its founder, Meyer Anselm Rothschild, a German Jew, born at Frankfort-on-the-Maine, some time about the year 1740, was a money-changer and exchange-broker, a man of fair character, and in easy circumstances. When, in the first campaign of the French Revolution (1792), General Custine, at the head of the Republican army, took Frankfort, the Senate, in order to save the town from pillage, agreed to pay a heavy ransom within a very limited period. But the money was not forthcoming. Public credit in Germany was still in its infancy, and among the wealthy capitalists of Frankfort not one could be induced to assist the Senate. In this emergency, Rothschild offered his services to obtain a loan for the required amount from the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel, by whom he had frequently been employed in money-changing transactions. The offer was accepted, and the loan obtained. Thus a money-lending connection between the Landgrave and Rothschild was begun; and, as in the course of the war other German Princes had occasion for loans, Rothschild's agency was often offered and accepted, so that the house acquired a standing.

This Landgrave was one of those German despots who, during the American Revolution, had sold their troops to England, and who, by means of a similar traffic during the wars of the French Revolution, accumulated immense sums of money, but whose tricky politics drew upon him the hatred of Napoleon. After the battle of Jena, Napoleon decreed the forfeiture of their states by the Sovereigns of Brunswick and of Hesse-Cassel, and a French army was put in march to enforce the decree. Too feeble to resist, the Landgrave prepared for flight. But in the vaults of his palace he had twelve million florins in silver; and to save this bulky amount of money from the French was a matter of extreme difficulty. It could not be carried away, and the Landgrave had so little confidence in his subjects that he could not bring himself to confide his treasure to their keeping; especially as the French would inflict severe punishment on any one undertaking the trust. In his utmost need the Landgrave bethought himself of Rothschild, sent for him to Cassel, and entreated him to take charge of the money; and by way of compensation for the danger, the Landgrave offered him the free use of the entire sum without interest. On these terms Rothschild undertook the trust, and, by the assistance of some Jewish bankers at Cassel, the money was so carefully stowed away, that when the French, after a hurried march, arrived in that city, they found the old Landgrave and his treasure gone.

About the time this large sum of money was placed in M. A. Rothschild's hands he had five sons, of whom three, Anselm, Nathan, and Solomon, had arrived at man's estate. These he associated with himself; keeping Anselm at Frankfort, while Nathan was established first at Manchester, and subsequently in London; and Solomon, as travelling agent for the firm, visited the various courts and princes of Germany who needed loans. Rothschild himself, as well as his sons, especially the second, Nathan, of London, appear to have displayed enterprise, prudence, and industry of the highest order, so that the large sum of ready money at their disposal increased and multiplied with astonishing rapidity.

In 1813, when, by the treaty of Toplitz, England gave Russia, Austria, and Prussia twelve millions sterling as subsidies, the Rothschilds, on the recommendation of the old Landgrave, were appointed agents for the payment of the money in Germany—an operation by which they profited to a very large amount. After the victory of Leipzig, in their rapid pursuit of Napoleon, the allied sovereigns suddenly found themselves on the banks of the Rhine. The Emperor of Austria, with a brilliant court and staff, took up his quarters at Frankfort. But his treasury was empty, and a loan became necessary. Metternich, after having in vain applied to the Bethmans, and other Christian merchant-princes of Frankfort, was at length reluctantly driven to address himself to Rothschild; and the pride of the German Cæsar stooped to solicit succour from a Jew. The graceful manner in which the request was granted called forth the Emperor's gratitude. Rothschild was created a baron of the Austrian empire; his son Nathan appointed Austrian Consul-General in Great Britain; and the whole weight of Austria, and of Metternich's influence, were put in requisition to extend and secure the financial operations of the house of Rothschild. The fall of Napoleon enabled the old Landgrave to return to Cassel, and he gave the Rothschilds notice that he should withdraw the money he had confided to them; but before the notice expired Napoleon's return from the Isle of Elba so greatly alarmed the Landgrave that he urged the Rothschilds to keep the money at the low rate of two per cent. per annum. This they did until his death in 1823, when his son and successor was forced to receive it back, as the Rothschilds refused to retain it any longer.

Meanwhile they spread themselves throughout the capitals of Europe. In 1815 James de Rothschild, the fourth son, opened a banking-house in Paris; in 1820 Charles, the youngest, established himself at Naples; and in 1821 Solomon, the third son, took up his residence at Vienna; so that at the death of M. A. Rothschild, in 1821, he saw his five sons placed at the head of five immense establishments, and united in a copartnership which is universally allowed to be the most wealthy and extensive of the world has ever seen. No operation in which he or his sons embarked had miscarried; and this uninterrupted success was, in a great measure, owing to their foresight and enterprise. Rothschild in London knew the result of the battle of Waterloo eight hours before the British Government, and the result of this knowledge was no less than two hundred thousand pounds gained in one forenoon. No bad loan was ever taken in hand by the Rothschilds; no good loan ever fell into other hands. Their invariable success at length gained for them so large an amount of public confidence, that any financial operation on which they frowned was sure to fail. And so conscious were they of their influence, that, after the July revolution in 1830, Anselm Rothschild, of Frankfort, was heard to declare, "The house of Austria desires war, but the house of Rothschild requires peace."

On the occasion of the troubles between the Porte and Mehemet Ali, in 1840, the Rothschilds were again chiefly instrumental in preserving the peace of Europe. In addition to their five principal establishments, they have agencies of their own in several of the large trading towns, both of the Old and New World. As dealers in money and bills they may be said to have no rivals; and as the magnitude of their operations enables them to regulate the course of exchange throughout the world, their profits are great, while their risks are comparatively small. Indeed, the only heavy loss they have as yet experienced was through the February revolution of 1848, when it is said that, owing to the sudden depreciation of all funded and railroad property throughout Europe, their losses from March to December of that year reached the enormous figure of eight millions sterling. But, great as those losses were, they did not affect the credit of the Rothschilds, and did not appear to have seriously impaired their means. The members of the firm are numerous, as the third generation has been received into the copartnership; and, as the cousins mostly intermarry, their immense wealth will, for a length of time, remain in comparatively few hands.

In anticipation of the marriage of the daughter of Baron Rothschild, extensive preparations had been made at Gunnersbury Park, the seat of her father; and the invitations to the wedding included several members of the *corps diplomatique*, a large proportion of the aristocracy, some distinguished foreigners, and the various members of the house of Rothschild. The guests assembled about three o'clock in the drawing-room, where Dr. Adler, the Chief Rabbi, assisted by Mr. Archer and Mr. Greene, prepared to perform the ceremony according to the rites of the Jewish religion. A velvet canopy, supported by four of the bridegroom's *garçons d'honneur*, was placed at the upper end of the room. The Chief Rabbi having taken his position in front of the canopy, the bridegroom—a handsome young man, with a fine open countenance—entered first, supported by his father and father-in-law.

After this the bride, who till then had remained in her apartment, de-

scended to the saloon, escorted by no fewer than sixteen bridesmaids. The costume was considered a *chef d'œuvre* in taste and appointments. The robe was of white satin covered with real Brussels Point of a very rare description, trimmed with marabouts, and decorated with bouquets of orange blossom and lilies of the valley. The head-dress, admirably adapted to Oriental beauty, was composed of massive braids of hair falling low upon the neck, and bound with rouleaus of royal blue velvet, producing a charming effect. The bridal chaplet was formed of orange blossoms, the staphenotis, and lilies of the valley, with pendants of jessamine and May flower. Attached to the back of the head was a veil of the costliest Brussels lace which swept the ground; and superadded to this was the distinguishing veil of the Hebrew bride. Literally it should have been but a mask of fine linen concealing the features, but on this occasion it was represented by the more elegant and appropriate "tulle illusion," a most aerial fabric, entirely enveloping the form without concealing it.

The dresses of the sixteen bridesmaids were of white tulle looped with blue ribbons, and velvets over very full slips of white glacé. They wore wreath and bouquets of white roses and lilies of the valley, laid on blue velvet, and tulle veils. These fair damsels were Miss Evelina Rothschild, the beautiful sister of the bride, the Misses Adele, Emma, Theresa, and Hannah Louisa Rothschild, daughters of Baron Charles de Rothschild, of Frankfort; Misses Constance and Annie Rothschild, daughters of Sir Anthony de Rothschild; Miss Hannah Rothschild, daughter of Baron Mayer de Rothschild; the Ladies Maria and Louisa Boyle, sisters of the Earl of Cork; the Hon. Miss Copley, youngest daughter of Lord Lyndhurst; and Miss Ashworth and Miss O'Hara, two celebrated beauties, who on this occasion found worthy companions in Miss Probyn, Miss Maxse, and Mlle. de la Grenée.

The Chief Rabbi commenced the ceremony with an address to the bride and bridegroom, delivered in English, in the course of which he paid a high compliment to the Rothschild family, and especially to the father and mother of the bride, whose example he enjoined the young couple to emulate as the best mode of ensuring a happy existence here and attaining a blissful hereafter.

A solemn prayer and a blessing in Hebrew followed, of which the annexed is a literal rendering:—

Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God; King of the Universe, who created the fruit of the vine. Blessed art Thou, O Lord our God! King of the Universe! who hast sanctified us with Thy commandments, and permitted us those who are married to us by means of the canopy and the wedlock. Blessed art Thou, O Lord! who sanctifieth Israel by means of the canopy and wedlock.

The bride pair then partook of a wine cup, handed to them by their respective parents, after which the bridegroom placed the ring on the finger of his bride, pronouncing audibly in Hebrew that which may be thus rendered:—

Behold; thou art wedded to me with this ring according to the law of Moses and Israel.

The marriage contract, the burthen of which enforces the mutual duties of husband and wife, was next read, after which the Chief Rabbi presented another wine cup, and invoked the seven blessings.

The Chief Rabbi then congratulated the wedded pair, and offered up a supplication for the poor of the Land of Promise. The wine cup (symbol of joy and sorrow in blended union) was again taken by the bridegroom, who, after tasting the contents, threw the cup on the ground, which shattered it into a thousand pieces, thus denoting the precarious nature of life and joy, and commemorating also that great sorrow still held sacred by the Jews—the destruction of the Temple.

When the ceremony was over, the bridegroom removed the veil from his bride and saluted her. The young Baroness was also saluted by her parents, and by the fair sisterhood in attendance upon her. About an hour after the bridal ceremony the visitors sat down to dinner, the bride and bridegroom being together at the head of the principal table. The scene was extremely brilliant; and just as the banquet was finished, a pretty incident of the day took place in the presentation, by the Baroness, according to the old and hospitable custom of the family, to each lady (they were eighty in number) of an exquisite bouquet, composed of choice flowers, for the composition of which not only had the floral stores of the Baroness's conservatories munificently contributed, but the whole of the Parisian markets had been ransacked of their finest camellias.

After the banquet, the Rev. A. Greene, chanted, in Hebrew, grace after meat. When this was concluded, the health of the bride was proposed by the French Ambassador, and drunk with enthusiasm. Mr. Disraeli then proposed "the health of Baron James de Rothschild;" Lord John Russell that of his colleague the Baron Lionel; and Mr. Bernal Osborne that of the sixteen bridesmaids in a diverting speech. Baron Alfred Rothschild responded, and immediately afterwards the guests rose and retired into the ball-room.

A great many additional visitors appeared at the evening festivities, and the ball was kept up with unflagging gaiety until after two o'clock. Even at that hour many lingered, unwilling to leave the fascinating scene. The bride appeared with her husband for a short time among the company, but presently retired, and at ten o'clock the happy pair left Gunnersbury for Mentmore, the newly-erected mansion of Baron Meyer de Rothschild, under the Chilterns, in the county of Bucks.

## THE BRIDAL PRESENTS.

The gallery in which the bridal presents were displayed was a chief point of attraction to the guests. It would be impossible otherwise than by a catalogue of great names, and jewels rivaling the wealth of the Indies, to give an idea of the splendour and number of the gifts collectively displayed in this gallery, or to enumerate the donors. Breakfast services, as usual, distinctly prevailed, there being some five or six of them, all of silver, except one set from Mrs. Montefiore, which was of massive standard gold, enriched with the most elaborate chislings. To this princely gift succeeded a long row of candlesticks, gold and silver filigree, and enamel ivory workboxes, lace fans, jewelled buttons, Prayer-books bound in gold and jewelled, escrites of buhl and marqueterie, more breakfast services, and a lace parasol. The latter was in a kind of jewel-case, the handle covered with serpents of rubies and diamonds, and the tip of each rib formed of an oval-shaped emerald and large pearl. Arranged on a table by themselves were the jewels—a dazzling pile—all given by different members of the Rothschild family. One set of jewels alone, the gift of the bridegroom's father, was said to be worth £30,000. There was also a magnificent parure, the gift of the bride's mother, and consisted of a diamond necklace or diadem, two fringes for the dress, a diamond chain with eleven fine oriental pearls, drops for a bandeau, etc., valued at £5,000. Close by these, and in a well-merited place of honour, were some humble but beautifully-worked little presents from the scholars and teachers of the Jewish free school.

THE CITY AND THE CABINET.—VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.—A Court of Common Council was on Monday convened "to express the opinion of the Court upon the consequences likely to arise to the commerce of the country from the decision of the House of Commons on Tuesday last, and to take such steps as they may think necessary." There was a large attendance. After some discussion, the following resolutions were affirmed:—"That Her Majesty's servants in China have, in the trying situation in which they were placed, acted in a manner to sustain the honour of the British flag, the commercial interests of the country, and the cause of truth and justice. That this Court have learnt with feelings of deep regret the decision of the Honourable House of Commons against Her Majesty's Ministers for supporting Her Majesty's servants in the discharge of their duty. That this Court presents its thanks to Lord Palmerston and Her Majesty's Ministers for the course they pursued on that occasion, which justly entitles them to the confidence of the country." A deputation from the Stock Exchange, and another from Lloyd's, have waited upon Lord Palmerston, with a requisition to stand for the City at the coming election. His Lordship declined.

THE PRESENT PARLIAMENT.—The present, which is the fourth Parliament of Queen Victoria, and the sixth of the "Reformed" Parliaments, was elected in July, 1852, under the auspices of the Earl of Derby, then at the head of the Tory Administration. It would not, according to the Septennial Act, die a natural death until the 30th of August, 1859 (the day at which the writs for the new Parliament were made returnable), but since the year 1826 no Parliament has approached its extreme limit. The present Parliament, if dissolved without any material delay, will have failed to attain the age of five years by some four or five months. It will be found that the average duration of the six Reformed Parliaments elected from 1832 to 1852 has been, as nearly as possible, four years, supposing the present to be dissolved this spring.

## EXAMINATION OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE ROYAL BRITISH BANK.

MR. EDWARD ESDAILE, late governor of the Royal British Bank, was examined at the Bankruptcy Court on Wednesday. In reply to certain interrogatories, Mr. Esdaile said that he could not at all remember whether the directors borrowed money in order to swell up the amount standing to the credit of the bank in the Bank of England. He believed that Mr. Cameron never paid a farthing for eighty-six shares which were allotted to him on his promissory note. He (Mr. Esdaile) was present at the meeting of the 14th of October 1849, when a loan of £7,500 was made to Mr. M'Grigor, and a sum of £1,000 was divided amongst the directors for their services in 1849, and which was represented as preliminary expenses. The directors had many applications for shares from persons residing in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which had been canvassed by Alderman Kennedy and Mr. Cameron. A cheque for £610 was afterwards drawn in favour of Mr. Mullens, to enable him to go down to obtain a transfer of those shares, as the depositors refused to sign the deed of constitution. On the 26th of October, 1849, the deposits were returned to the amount of £610. (Mr. Linklater pointed out that this was illegal, without the consent of the Law Lords.) When Mr. Esdaile was elected governor on the 1st of February, 1855, he learned that Cameron's discount account amounted to £15,000. From this time to the closing of his personal security, and on shares. He (Mr. Esdaile) was aware that by the deed of settlement they could not legally advance money on shares of the bank. Money had been lent to Mr. Chandler on shares, and to Mr. H. Brown. At the half-yearly meetings of shareholders in February, 1856, and June, 1856, Cameron's account was returned as good assets. Himself and the other directors had frequently endeavoured to compel Cameron to reduce his account, but had failed. The bank had lost by the Welsh wire, £120,000. He did not know that Mr. Apsley Pellatt had retired from the direction, on account of some irregular transactions in connexion with these mines. Mr. Linklater now asked Mr. Esdaile whether he believed the directors were making a true and honest representation to the shareholders, when, in the report for 1856, these mines were stated to be an available asset of £120,000. To the question he made many evasive answers; but at length admitted that at the time the report was read he feared there would be a loss of £50,000 on the mines. Mr. Esdaile then further admitted that the accounts furnished to the shareholders in February, 1856, conveyed an erroneous impression. Bad debts were inserted as good, and the financial statement was "not strictly justified by truth." "It was untrue—with some explanations." There should have been no division of profits in 1854, 1855, 1856. The directors believed they would have recovered Cameron's debt, and that Humphrey Brown would pay. He was aware, by the terms of the act of Parliament, they should have had £50,000, being one-half of the paid-up capital, before they petitioned Her Majesty in council for a commission of incorporation at starting the bank. They had not that capital. When they commenced business, on the 19th of November, 1849, they had £20,250 standing to their credit.

The sitting then broke up.

## OBITUARY.

THURLOW, LORD.—On the 2nd inst., at Herne Bay, Kent, aged 42, died the Right Hon. Edward Thomas Howell Thurlow, third Lord Thurlow of Thurlow, county of Suffolk. His Lordship was the eldest son of the second Lord Thurlow, by Mary Caroline, daughter of T. R. Bolton, Esq., and was born November 12th, 1814. He succeeded to the title on his father's death in June, 1829, while still in his minority, and married, in 1836, Sarah, daughter of Peter Hodgson, Esq., by whom (who died in 1849) he has left two sons, the elder of whom, Edward Thomas, born in 1837, has succeeded to the title. The late peer numbered among his ancestors in the collateral line, the well-known Nicholas Thurlow, the enterprising traveller, who made the tour of all Europe, Asia, and America in the seventeenth century, when travelling was not so easy a work as it is now. The deceased peer's grandfather was successively Bishop of Lincoln and of Durham, and younger brother of Lord Chancellor Thurlow, who procured the baronetcy to be granted to him with remainder to his brothers and their male descendants.

FIFE, EARL OF.—At Duff House, on the 9th inst., died James Duff, Earl of Fife. The deceased Earl, who was in his 81st year, was Lord Lieutenant of the County of Banff. He was likewise a General in the Spanish Army, in which he served as a volunteer throughout the Peninsular war. The family is descended from Macduff, the well-known Thane of Fife. The late Earl is succeeded in his title and estates by his nephew, James Duff, Esq., M.P., for the County of Banff.

THE QUEEN AGAINST THE PRINCE OF WALES.—A dispute has arisen between the representatives of the Queen, on the one hand, and the representatives of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, on the other, in reference to the revenues of the under sea-fisheries off the Coast of Cornwall. The arguments, which are of a technical and abstruse character, will last some time, after which the whole of the documents connected with the question will be handed to Sir John Patteson for arbitration.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCESS ROYAL.—The "Cross," Berlin newspaper, states on authentic information that the betrothal of the Princess Royal to Prince Frederick will take place at London during the month of May. The marriage, adds the "Cross," is definitely fixed for the 21st of November, or as soon after as possible. The new married couple will remain in England for the Christmas holidays, making their entry in state into Berlin immediately after the new year.

RETIREMENT OF THE BISHOP OF NORWICH.—It is reported, on what is said to be very good authority, that Dr. Hindes, the present Bishop of Norwich, has resolved to resign on account of ill health.

THE LITERARY FUND.—At the meeting of the Literary Fund held on Wednesday, Mr. Dilke and Mr. Charles Dickens resumed their annual discussion about the financial management of the institution; but their views appear to be as unlikely as ever to be adopted.

THE REAL EVERLASTING PEAS.—A vase found in a mummy pit by Sir Gardner Wilkinson, the age of which was computed at about three thousand years was presented to the British Museum. The vase was hermetically sealed. Mr. Pettigrew, librarian to the Duke of Sussex, attempted to open it, and unfortunately it was broken. In the vase was found a mass of dust, in which lay a few grains of wheat and vetches, and some peas, shrivelled, of a resin-yellow colour, and as hard as stone. It was known that mummy wheat had been resuscitated after an interment of five thousand years, and it was resolved to try the same experiment with the peas. In one instance it succeeded: one miserable plant appeared, and, with careful nursing, produced nineteen pods, which ripened, and were planted next year; and this was the foundation of a stock, which is now becoming commonly known as the Egyptian pea. It is a new variety of most distinct character. Its blossom is unlike every other pea; it more nearly resembles a bell than the wings of a butterfly, and is veined with green lines on a white ground. The blossoms break at every joint in clusters of two, four, and eight, and are succeeded by pods that protrude crookedly through them, each pod containing from five to ten peas, which, when cooked, are deliciously flavoured.

CAPTURE OF "JACKSON," THE AUSTRALIAN IMPOSTOR.—The man who called himself James Jackson, alias Smith, and who imposed upon several persons in Lincolnshire and other counties, by pretending to be a missionary returned from Australia, and was entrusted with very valuable presents from persons in Australia to their relations in England, was captured on the evening of the 2nd inst. He was taken before a magistrate, and remanded. It is supposed from his admissions that he has imposed upon hundreds of persons.

CRUELTY.—Joseph Williams, a letter-sorter at the General Post Office, has been committed for trial for cruelty to one of his children, an imbecile son aged eighteen. The charge was that the boy was starved and neglected. The description of his condition when taken into the workhouse was most revolting; and it was said that the sufferer could not have lived nine days longer if he had remained under his father's roof.

CONVICT ASSASSINS.—James Johnson, a convict at Portsea, has been found guilty at Winchester of an attempt to murder one of the warders. Judgment of death was recorded against him. He told the judge that he would seize the first opportunity to kill the warders, and rid the world of them.—William Wallace, another Portsea convict, has been convicted of stabbing one of his fellow-prisoners. In this case also sentence of death was recorded.

TICKET-OF-LEAVE MEN.—A recently-published return of the number of tickets-of-leave issued to convicts since the commencement of that practice, shows that the sum total, between the 10th of October, 1853, and the 12th of February, 1857, is 7,335; and the number of license-holders re-apprehended is 1,159. Of these, one has been executed for murder; 467 have been re-convicted, and sentenced to transportation or penal servitude, and 40 have been re-convicted and sentenced to imprisonment. 434 have had their licenses revoked, as have also 49 who were not convicted. 96 have been acquitted, and there are 71 respecting whom the result is not yet known. The following is the scale according to which the licenses are granted: 7 years' sentence at the end of 3; 10 ditto, 4; 14 ditto, 6; 15 ditto, 6½; 20 ditto, 8; and life, at the end of not less than 10, but each case decided on its own merits.

THE PERMITS OF MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON, AND CO., of Fleet Street, printers of postage and receipt stamps for the Government, were destroyed by fire on Wednesday night. The loss is estimated at £30,000.

THE REV. JOHN MACNAUGHT.—ERRATA.—In our notice of the Rev. John Macnaught, last week, we stated that his treatise on the "Doctrine of Inspiration" was out of print. This was recently the case; but, as will be seen by an advertisement in another column, the work has just been republished at a reduced price. A correspondent also sets us right on the following point: In describing Mr. Macnaught's expulsion from the Clerical Society, it seems that we remarked the subject under discussion to have been "only worthy of notice from a curious confession made by one of the clergy present, who observed, that his difficulty was not to believe in a devil—of that he found abundant proof in himself and in everything; his difficulty was to believe in a God." We are informed that the expression really made use of was to believe in God, and not "a" God.



# **SPLENDID POSTAL DISTRICT MAP OF LONDON,** (Size 2 Feet 3 Inches by 3 Feet), TO BE ISSUED TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "ILLUSTRATED TIMES," ON SATURDAY NEXT.

The Proprietors of the "Illustrated Times" desire to announce to their Subscribers that they have now ready  
A LARGE AND ELABORATELY-ENGRAVED  
MAP OF LONDON,  
ON THE SCALE OF 3 INCHES TO THE MILE,  
With the Names of all the Streets distinctly shown, and with  
THE DIVISIONS OF THE NEW POSTAL DISTRICTS  
clearly defined. This Map, which is 2 feet 3 inches in depth by 3 feet in width, will be printed upon a sheet of paper the same size as the "Illustrated Times," and although it is an exact counterpart, not only as regards size, but in point of minute finish, of the Map prepared by direction of the Postmaster-General for the use of the London and Provincial Post Offices, and which is sold to the public at 6s., it will be issued to subscribers to the "Illustrated Times" at  
THE PRICE OF AN ORDINARY NUMBER OF THE PAPER, NAMELY, 2½D.,  
specimens are now in the hands of the trade; and the Map itself will be issued with the "Illustrated Times" on Saturday next. The enormous demand which is certain to arise for an article which the recent Division of the Metropolis into Postal Districts has rendered indispensable to every letter-writer in the kingdom, makes it necessary that immediate orders should be given to the various Agents.

In the number of the "Illustrated Times" which will accompany the Map, will be commenced the publication of a Novel, entitled

## **THE BADDINGTON PEERAGE:** BEING THEIR LORDSHIPS' LIVES. A STORY OF THE BEST AND THE WORST SOCIETY.

BY GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA,  
(AUTHOR OF "A JOURNEY DOWN NORTH," IN DICKENS'S "HOUSEHOLD WORDS.")  
This tale, which is of powerful interest, will have the advantage of being illustrated in its more striking scenes by the graphic pencil of HENRY K. BROWN. One or more Chapters will be published weekly in the columns of the "Illustrated Times" until the whole is completed.

## **ENGRAVINGS AFTER PICTURES IN THE TURNER COLLECTION.**

In the same number of the "Illustrated Times" will be published No. 1 of a series of  
HIGHLY-FINISHED ENGRAVINGS ON A LARGE SCALE  
after the  
CHOICEST PICTURES OF THE TURNER COLLECTION AT  
MARLBOROUGH HOUSE.  
These will be produced in the VERY HIGHEST STYLE OF WOOD ENGRAVING ART, and will be printed with the greatest care. The series will be continued from week to week until completed.

## **LIFE-SIZE PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN.** (33 Inches by 25.)

Copies of the above engraving may still be obtained of any of the Agents for the "Illustrated Times." It will be sold with either back or current numbers of the paper at a charge of 2d. extra, but will not be sold separately.

# **ILLUSTRATED TIMES.**

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1857.

## **A HINT TO ELECTORS.**

THERE is absolutely no subject to write on but the great one which engrosses England—the coming Dissolution. Elsewhere we have treated the graver aspects of the matter; we have sketched the heads of the policy which the country needs—indicated our doubts what Palmerston really is, and what people will be voting for who vote for him alone. Now for a lighter lay. We are about to suggest to British electors a kind of sport—a *lore hunt*, in fact; not such as Snodgrass painted exactly, but such as would be very serviceable to this country all the same. In plain English, we raise this war-cry—*Down with the bores!* Hunt the bores out of the House!

In some six hundred odd Britons there must necessarily be many dull fellows; but, then, many of them permanently hold their tongues, and place themselves under the leadership of abler men. Many also are decent, quiet gentlemen, kept in the honest course of policy by old English instincts and traditions. But we are about to speak now of a kind of lively-dull fellows—men whose stupidity is brisk, and their emptiness crotchety—men who rattle one idea in their heads like a pea in a drum. These push into Parliament, sometimes by dint of gold, sometimes by dint only of brass. In debate they are awful; for, as the "New Whig Guide" says—in some verses written, for aught we know, by Lord Palmerston (who was then a Tory wit, and contributor to that funny little book)—

"The fool who is truly so never forgets,  
But still fools it on to the close;  
As Ponsbury leaves the debate when he sets,  
Just as dark as it was when he rose!"

They obscure public questions, delay divisions, and keep better men out of the House. Let electors now, at last, think twice before returning them again.

It really would be worth the while of electors to insist on some glimmer of parts in their men; for when the aristocracy are taunted with incompetence, they reply that the people elect dunces from free choice, and consequently must be supposed to like the kind of thing. Now, this is unanswerable. The only way to avert the consequence is by removing the fact. Yawn honestly in the face of your bore, and say you can stand him no longer,—that you mean to have a clever man for once, and that you will take your chance of his accepting an appointment at Hong Kong. If he is compelled (by pecuniary circumstances) to take that course, why, at least, you have got a man with brains into the public service—your seat is open to be bestowed again—and, in time, a breed of able men will be secured for the country. Do not believe the retired broker, or iron man, that "them London men" and "littery men" are all rascals, and that wood does as well as anything else for making Members of. Vindicate the Reform Bill from the hack old charge that it does not secure as good men for Parliament as the old rotten boroughs. Reply that you know the first William Pitt sat for Old Sarum, and that Edmund Burke was a nominee of the Fitzwilliam family; but that now you mean to be patrons yourselves of the nearest approaches to Pitt and Burke the age supplies, and that meanwhile you have begun by hooting Podger. Act on this, and you will soon get a class of young men who will make short work of the oligarchy and their tools; neglect this—take the "retired" mediocrity, who has begun politics at forty-five—and you return a silent, or loquacious bore, as the case may be, to be quizzed, yawned at, bought by a dinner if need be, by the Comic Old Gentleman and his kind.

But how are you to get these substitutes for your present bores? That will be a work of time, for no change can be made in a minute. All we say is, that the change must be made in your own opinions and ways of looking at things in the first instance. The Universities—the gentry of smaller means—the professional classes, and literature—produce plenty of able and aspiring fellows, now kept back by a consciousness of your aptness to prefer the well-to-do, fussy, middle-aged bore; and, consequently, the best part of you—your pluck, heart, intellect—are really not represented adequately at all.

## **SAYINGS AND DOINGS.**

THE QUEEN has accorded a pension of £100 a-year to Lieutenant Massey of the Redan, and he has been made a Knight of the Legion of Honour by the Emperor of the French.

THE ROYAL PROCLAMATION for the dissolution of the present Parliament and the calling of another, is expected to be issued about the 25th of this month.

CONSIDERABLE REINFORCEMENTS OF ALL ARMS are to be sent to China: The Sidon, Transit, and Assistance steamships are embarking troops at Portsmouth. A squadron of gunboats will accompany these vessels. It is rumoured that two block ships will also form part of the reinforcements.

MR. THOMAS CARLYLE has been appointed trustee to the proposed gallery of national portraits, in the room of the late Lord Ellesmere.

THE SUBJECT selected for the gold medal competition of this year for the Royal Academy, both in sculpture and painting, is "The Good Samaritan." The number of competitors will be large.

CHIEF CONCERTS FOR THE PEOPLE have been commenced at Winchester and Southampton with great success.

A NEW TELESCOPIC COMET was discovered by Professor d'Arrest, of Leipzig, on the 22nd of February. It may be seen about five in the morning; R.A. 21h. 43m. 29s. N.D. 26 deg. 54m. 42s.

TWENTY ENGLISH ROMAN CATHOLICS waited upon the Pope, recently, to offer their thanks for the honour he had conferred upon the English nation by personally consecrating Dr. Clifford, as Bishop of Clifton.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has bought the hotel in the Rue de Conseiller, Paris, for 800,000fr., and presented it to the Princess Mathilde.

THE CHAMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM has rejected the proposition to grant a pension of 250fr. to the persons decorated with the Iron Cross (that is, those who combated in the revolution of 1830); but, on the demand of the Minister of the Interior, it has granted a sum of 15,000fr. to be employed in pensions to sixty of the persons decorated who have fallen into distress.

THE REPORTED ATTEMPT UPON THE LIFE OF KING OTHO turns out to be moonshine. The Grecian "Boy Jones" was a student, madder than a March hare, who, fancying that the King had a very nice berth, thought he should like to occupy his place for a while. With this view he got into the palace, and was found sleeping on a sofa, coolly clad in a dressing-gown.

A SINGULAR WILL-SUIT has been for some time in progress at New York. A man and his wife were drowned when the steamer Arctic was lost at sea, and the whole question of the disposal of the large property turns on which died first.

ONE MR. SPYER has obtained a verdict of £10,000, in an action brought in the Court of Queen's Bench, against a Mr. Porter, for services which he had rendered in tracing out his pedigree, and enabling him to recover between £50,000 and £60,000, which had been left by a clergyman named Townley, who died some years ago.

MR. PFABODY, the London banker, has given the City of Baltimore 300,000 dollars for the establishment of an institution which is to include a free library, a musical academy, and a picture gallery. The gift is hereafter to be increased to 500,000 dollars.

THE LARGEST NUGGET OF GOLD QUARTZ yet discovered is in the possession of Messrs. Concell and Co., of Broad Street Buildings. It weighs between 400 and 500 pounds, and was found at Louisa Creek, New South Wales.

THREE LITTLE GIRLS, living in various parts of the metropolis, were accidentally burnt during the last week.

EXTENSIVE ALTERATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS are now being made in Chatham Dockyard, at a cost of £100,000.

TWO MINES, one of gold and the other of silver, have been discovered in the province of Catamarca, Buenos Ayres. They are reputed to be the richest that have yet been discovered.

THE DEANERY OF CANTERBURY has been conferred by Lord Palmerston on the Rev. Henry Alford, Minister of Quebec Chapel, formerly Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.

A THOUSAND POUNDS have been left by Mr. Alexander Falconer, to build and endow a museum in the town of Forres.

A SUBSCRIPTION FOR A MEMORIAL TO THE LATE EARL OF ELLESMERE has been opened at Worsley. What form the testimonial is to take has not been determined; but the general feeling seems to be in favour of an obelisk to be erected on some of the high ground about Worsley, so as to be visible from a long distance.

THE COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS have authorised the formation of a mutual guarantee fund for such officers of that establishment as may be disposed to avail themselves of it, in lieu of providing by other means the personal security required from them. It is to be constituted by a payment from each officer of 1 per cent. on the amount of security taken.

JUDGE HALBERTON, the author of "Sam Slick" &c., is to deliver a lecture in the City Hall, Glasgow, on the 25th inst., under the auspices of the directors of the Athenæum.

MR. WILLIAM HENN, one of the four Masters in Chancery at Dublin, is dead. It is said that the vacant mastership will not be filled up.

SOME SWINDLERS pretending to be a mercantile firm, have been engaged lately in Scotland, Ireland, and other parts endeavouring to obtain goods by giving reference to various banks as to their respectability. In many cases, from want of caution among the tradespeople in not making reference, goods have been furnished to these harpies.

MR. EMERSON is engaged upon two works, one of which, "The Conduct of Life," will probably be published during the coming autumn. It is based upon a series of lectures delivered a few years since. The other is to be called the "History of Intellect," and is expected by the author, we hear, to be the great literary performance of his life.

TWO OF MR. HUMPHREY BROWN'S SHIPS, which were mortgaged to the Royal British Bank for advances, have been sold on behalf of the creditors. One, the Hornet, sold for £5,625; the other, the Ocean Wave, sold for £3,575.

MRS. BACON, who is confined in Horsemen Lane Jail on the charge of murdering her children, is confined to her bed, with symptoms of fever.

A PUBLIC MEETING for promoting missions to seamen afloat, whether abroad or at home, was held at Willis's Rooms, on Tuesday. The Earl of Shaftesbury presided.

THE FAMOUS CHRISTNUT-TREE OF THE TUILERIES GARDENS, called the "Ving' Mars," has this year advanced its usual period of bursting into leaf, as its first appearance of green has already become visible. This is the first time since 1811, the year of the comet, such a precocity of vegetation has been witnessed.

DR. ELISHA KANE, the Arctic traveller, died at Havannah on the 16th inst. He was 34 years of age. The greatest sympathy was manifested by the officers of the island, who attended his funeral in a body.

A BUST OF THE LATE DR. BUCKLAND is to be subscribed for among his admirers, and placed in the new Museum at Oxford, with the geological collection which he presented to the University. The subscriptions are limited to £1 each.

MR. GUINNESS, a Director of the Great Southern and Western Railway of Ireland, recently died of a sudden attack of apoplexy.

THE WELLINGTON MONUMENT FOR LIVERPOOL is to be from the design of Messrs. Watson of Edinburgh.

IN PRUSSIA a subscription has been opened to supply with money the Royalist rebels who have fled from Neufchatel. The prospectus states that the smallest sums will be acceptable, as a debt of honour paid to the monarchical cause.

A CAUTION against the little balloons which are now bought in such large numbers for the amusement of children has appeared in the newspapers. The balloons are said to be filled with hydrogen, which by admixture with atmospheric air (which is almost sure to gain admittance) forms an explosive gas.

THE EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS has announced for competition a prize of 25 guineas for the best essay on the Mineral Springs of Scotland, with special reference to their chemistry, climate, geology, topography, facility of access, and uses. The competition is to be open to graduates of the Edinburgh University and colleges whose diplomas do not date earlier than 1855. The essays to be sent in before the end of 1858.

THE WIDOW ALLSOP having failed to give a satisfactory account of herself and of her sons, said to be slaughtered in their country's service, Mr. Broughton, the magistrate, announces his intention to return, on application, any of the sums sent for her. Donations not recalled in a fortnight will be paid over to the poor-box of the Marylebone Police Court.

GREENWICH FAIR is suppressed. The owners of the land on which the fair was held, having been threatened with summonses in the event of their again letting it for such purposes, have gracefully given in.

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS there are 105 barristers and six solicitors, and in the Lords ten lawyers, making 121.

SIR HENRY LAWRENCE, it is said, is to fill Sir James Outram's place as Commissioner of Oude. The successor of Mr. Bushby, as Resident at Hyderabad, is not yet nominated.

ADVICES FROM THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE report that a meeting had been held in Graham's Town to vote an address to her Majesty for the prompt military succor lately, and also on former occasions, extended to the colony.

## **THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.**

WHATEVER rumours you may hear to the contrary, there is not the least doubt that the performances of the Royal Italian Opera *troupe* will not be given this season at Drury Lane Theatre. The arrangements long pending between Mr. Gye and Mr. E. T. Smith have been finally broken off, and an agreement was signed with Mr. Conquest, the lessee of the Lyceum Theatre, on Monday last, under which Mr. Gye takes possession of the last-named establishment at Easter. The misunderstanding is alleged to rest, not with the lessee of Drury Lane, but with the removers, who demurred to any infringement of their privileges of *entrée*, &c.

The second *conversazione* of the Artists' and Amateurs' Society was held on Thursday evening last at Willis's Rooms, and was well attended. There were many portfolios of sketches. Among the best, some by Mr. Fenn, one of our most rising young artists; and some excellent photographs by Mr. Herbert Watkins.

I cannot say that I admire the fun of Mr. Marks, whose caricatures of some of the pictures exhibited at last year's Academy were exhibited at the last meeting of the Graphic. The wit of rendering Mr. Stanfield's glorious picture of the "Forsaken," as an old washing-tub, is, to say the least of it, doubtful; nor can a parody of Messrs. Lee and Cooper's landscape, by making both trees and cows after the approved toy-shop pattern, be regarded as the promise of a very brilliant genius. The caricatures are accompanied by letter-press notes, in which Mr. Ruskin's peculiarities of style are tolerably well imitated. I think Mr. Marks has mistaken his vocation; I see he is praised by a cotemporary for his "sense of Shakespearean humour." If you, Sir, have seen any persons in these later days who have prided themselves on their "Shakespearean humour," you will probably judge with me that Mr. Marks is fit company for them. By-the-way, the public will perhaps be surprised to hear that one of the very best caricaturists of the present day—scarcely, if at all, inferior to Mr. Leech—is Mr. Mullaish himself, whose pen and ink sketches of London society are marvellous.

A committee of the depositors of the British Bank, presided over by Mr. Wyld, and acting in concert with the shareholders, have come to the resolution to accept the proposal of the latter to pay six and sixpence in the pound, in addition to the five and sixpence already paid in Bankruptcy, and what remainder may be realised, in exchange for a full release. They have also come to the determination, providing they can obtain the consent of the majority of the creditors, to apply to Parliament for a special act to compel the minority to come into the proposed arrangement! They have already had an interview with the Attorney-General, who, we are told, received the deputation very kindly, and promised to speak to the Lord Chancellor upon the subject. I scarcely know which to admire most, the suavity of the great lawyer, or the confiding simplicity of the deputation. For some reason or other this proposition—which is at once both monstrous and ridiculous—is sanctioned by the assignees and the solicitor under the Bankruptcy, and is approvingly spoken of by the "Times" and "Globe." Strange notions must be entertained by the committee and their organs of the legislative functions of Parliament. If they calculated upon the support of the dis-honourable member for Glasgow, they must be sorry to know that he has retired full of honours to that senatorial limbo—the Chiltern Hundreds. Mr. Humphrey Brown, although, no doubt, considerably interested in promoting the wishes of the committee, with all the rampant vitality exhibited by him lately at Tewkesbury, and with all the weight which the testimonial then presented will confer upon him, is not exactly the man to carry such a measure through the House single-handed. The interests of banking, and consequently of commerce, have received a blow quite severe enough in the disgraceful failure of this bank without being further injured by an *ex-post-facto* act, passed to relieve a body of shareholders from the consequences of their negligence, folly, and dishonesty; and to force upon a body of creditors an inadequate dividend. There is a harmony of tone in all these proceedings, worthy of the hands that originated the great swindle. What began in fraud, it is intended to terminate in injustice; and what the artistic hands of a Cameron built up, is very properly reserved for the no less artistic hands of an official assignee, solicitor, and pet committee to pull down. That the proposed act will be entertained for one moment by the Legislature, I do not of course suppose; but I like to show what notion is held by some of your cotemporaries and public men of the duties of a representative Parliament, especially by a gentleman like Mr. James Wyld, who nourishes, and has long nourished, legislative aspirations.

*Apologies* of art gossip, Ackermann's Repository, as it called itself, print-shop as it was generally called, the great lounge of Strand wayfarers curious in pictures, is about to be turned into a vast *restaurant*, the projectors of the scheme promising that the fare shall be as excellent as that supplied by Mr. Simpson of the Divan, and at a much less price.

Tradespeople and "caterers for amusement," are loud in their lamentations at the approaching dissolution of Parliament, which will put an almost entire stop to business, and dreadfully curtail that harvest of Londoners known as the "Season."

The rumour that Madame Celeste has retired from her share of the management of the Adelphi Theatre is incorrect.

The Lower Rhenish Musical Festival, usually held at Cologne or Düsseldorf, will this year be given at Aix-la-Chapelle. Dr. Liszt will be the conductor, and it is expected he will visit London this season.

## **THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.**

No alteration has taken place in the bills of any of the theatres, with the exception of the Princess's, where "Richard the Second" was produced too late in the week to allow me to send you a lengthened notice of it.

Rumours are afloat that Drury Lane will be kept open with the present dramatic company; but that the Italian Opera scheme is abandoned. It is also said that Mr. Tully will again try the fortunes of English opera there; but this last report wants confirmation.

The regular dramatic season at Sadler's Wells will shortly close with Mr. Phelps's benefit. It is believed that Mr. B. Webster will again try his success at this house for a month or two in the summer, with a starring company selected from the principal West End theatres.

The second concert by the members of Mr. Henry Leslie's Choir took place on Thursday last, with very great success. The principal feature of the concert, of course, consisted of choral performances; but these were pleasantly varied by the pianoforte-playing of Mdlle. Angelina, and some songs by Madame Weiss. Pearall's sweet madrigal, "Lovely Phillis," and the "Student's Serenade," by Benedict, were admirably rendered by the Choir. The execution of Mr. Henry Leslie's "Boat Song," from the "Lady of the Lake," was also good; but the composition, though pretty, lacks the spirit and energy which the words should have inspired. Beethoven's "Andante in F" was performed by Mdlle. Angelina in a manner which drew forth the loud applause of the audience. There are but one or two professional pianists who can equal this young lady amateur—none who can excel her. Madame Weiss, of course, sang charmingly.

The first concert of the Musical Union, on Tuesday, was of average interest. The ridiculous phraseology employed by Mr. Ella, in his *officé*, was the subject of much laughter.

MR. SPURGEON IN GOOD COMPANY.—A morning paper, which devotes much attention to Mr. Spurgeon's movements, states that his congregation at the Music Hall, on Sunday, included Sir James Graham, Lord John Russell, and Lord Stanley of Alderley. The latter Noble Lords had "a lengthened conversation" with Mr. Spurgeon after the service. Acco diog to the same authority, Mr. Spurgeon contrived to introduce a direct compliment to Lord John Russell into the sermon.

THE "WILY GREEK."—A wealthy Greek merchant of Marseilles recently insured his ship, the *Trois Sœurs*, said to be on her way from Scala Nova to Marseilles, for 230,000fr. A few days after it was discovered that just before effecting the insurance the merchant had received news by telegraph that the ship was lost. He was accordingly brought before a police-court, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment, a fine of 3,000fr., and interdiction from civil rights for ten years.

ROYAL BRITISH BANK.—At a recent meeting of the depositors of the Royal British Bank, a resolution was passed in favour of accepting the proposed composition of 6s. 6d. in the pound from the shareholders; an adverse amendment having been supported by only thirteen votes in a crowded assembly. The meeting then pledged itself to support an application for an act of Parliament to carry out the compromise, and a petition to both Houses of Parliament was adopted.





EARL GRANVILLE, PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY MAYALL.)

## EARL GRANVILLE.

WHEN a ministerial crisis startles the public, and a dissolution of Parliament is impending, the "Leader of the House of Lords" of course acquires considerable importance in the eyes of the people of England. His position naturally leads to that distinction; and, in the present case, decidedly it is not unmerited. Lord Granville, we are well aware, is not a great political hero, nor anything of the kind; he is not a great Parliamentary personage, like some of his predecessors—such, for instance, as Chatham, Grey, and Derby, who had led and ruled men by the might of eloquence, influenced the decision of stormy assemblies, and carried measures beneficial to millions; but he has done something for the salary paid out of the national exchequer; he has shown himself a good enough man of business in his own little way: and he has performed the duties devolving upon him pretty well, considering that he is merely an aristocrat brought up in grand houses, with the notion that, in regard to affairs of state, he has everything to get and nothing to do.

Earl Granville is a member of the great Whig connection, being the eldest son of the distinguished diplomatist of the name of Granville-Leveson-Gower, who was uncle to the Duke of Sutherland and one of that

wealthy modern family who have recently exercised so enormous an influence in courts and parliaments. Moreover, his mother was a daughter of the fifth Duke of Devonshire. He was born May 11, 1815, and educated at Eton and Christ Church, where he took his degree in 1834. The following year he became, under his father, attaché to the embassy at

Paris; and in 1836, being just of age, he was elected to Parliament for Morpeth, a "pocket borough" of the Earl of Carlisle's. He was again returned for the same borough in 1837; but at the close of the session he retired from Parliament, and accepted the appointment of Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, which he held until 1840, when he once more took his seat as member for Lichfield. While in Parliament, he always sided with the Whig party, and was an able and consistent advocate of free trade. In 1846, his Lordship was appointed deputy-lieutenant for Shropshire, and in the same year succeeded to the peerage which had been bestowed on his father.

He was destined to enjoy still higher honours. While enacting the part of Master of the Buck Hounds, Lord Granville was, in May, 1848, nominated Vice-President of the Board of Trade. Mr. Disraeli took occasion to ridicule this appointment; but some years later, when Lord Granville had figured as Vice-President of the Royal Commission for the Great Exhibition, of which he was one of the most diligent working members, Lord John Russell reminded the Member for Bucks of his ridicule, and declared that this scion of the house of Gower had proved himself a most competent minister.

The result soon appeared. When the autumn of 1851 arrived, Lord Granville was well rewarded for the diligence and activity that won him so much praise. In October, he was called to the Cabinet, and in December he was entrusted with the Seals of the Foreign Office, which, our readers will remember, were at that time taken from Lord Palmerston, on account of "the Bottle-holder's" approval of Louis Napoleon's *coup-d'état*. Lord Granville, however, held the office of Foreign Secretary but for a short time, as the Cabinet of Lord J. Russell fell to pieces soon afterwards.

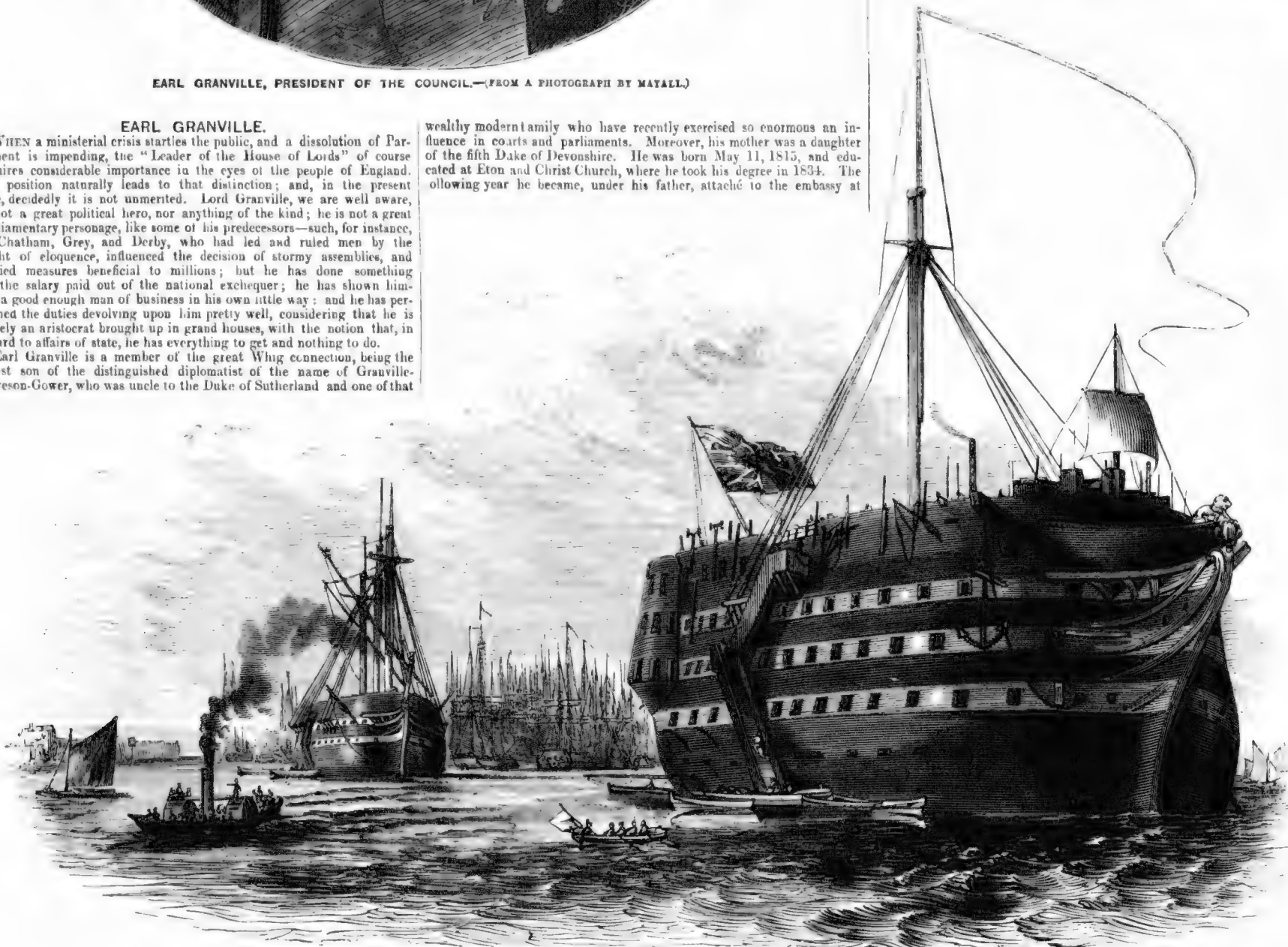
Earl Granville was not the kind of man to be long out of the public service. Lord Derby's Government, which succeeded that of Lord J. Russell, only lasted for some ten months; and, on its resignation, the Earl of Aberdeen formed an administration. The members of the Sutherland family, as a matter of course, had their share of the loaves and fishes; and, being the case, Earl Granville was gratified with office as President of the Council, an office which he subsequently resigned on being appointed Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. When the dissolution of the Coalition Government took place, and the expulsion of the Earl of Aberdeen from power was effected, Earl Granville resumed his functions as President of the Council, and appeared as Leader of the House of Lords. He has since figured in that character with considerable credit.

Last year, when the Russian war was terminated, and the coronation of the young Czar was about to take place at Moscow, it was determined that the President of the Council should proceed upon an extraordinary mission to the Court of St. Petersburg on the occasion. He is understood to have acquitted himself with great prudence, and to have made himself popular with the Russians, though not quite so much so as Count de Morny. There, as elsewhere, the Earl chiefly owed his influence to a very charming wife (the only daughter of the Duke of Dalberg), whose ambition, we believe, is to rival Lady Palmerston and the spouse of Lord J. Russell, in the fashionable circles of London. The Earl himself is not much to look at; he is a red, rosy-faced man, with what is vulgarly described as "a corporation," and the reputation of being fond of what is commonly known as "good living." He is one of the few English peers who can speak well in French; and, when in Paris during the Exhibition, astonished the inhabitants with the eloquence he displayed when using their language.

## THE OLD DREADNOUGHT.

THE accompanying engraving represents the old *Dreadnought*, which, as we announced last week, has just, after many years of existence, been broken up, and found to be in a very rotten condition.

The *Dreadnought*, as our readers are no doubt aware, has long been the "Seamen's Hospital" at Greenwich—a huge, quiet, solemn old man-of-war hulk, which stood out above the surrounding craft in the river, with something of the effect of a ruined castle in a little country place. Many a time has a visit to the *Dreadnought* been described, and her eventual



THE OLD "DREADNOUGHT" HOSPITAL-SHIP, NOW BEING BROKEN UP.



history been related. Formerly a ship-of-war, she took part in the grand fight at Trafalgar, and on that remarkable occasion captured a Spanish three-decker, the *San Juan*, which had previously been engaged by the *Bellerophon* and the *Defiance*. The great Collingwood left the *Dreadnought* for the *Royal Sovereign*, ten days before Trafalgar—the *Royal Sovereign* being a better sailor—leaving the *Dreadnought*, too, with the capacity of “firing three broadsides in three minutes and a half.” The *Dreadnought* had on that day seven killed and twenty-six wounded, and the maintop-sail yard shot away with a crash that one can imagine! But after witnessing such scenes, as time passed on, the *Dreadnought* saw another sight. Her ninety-eight guns were changed for feather beds to accommodate 400 suffering, destitute sailors. The decks became wards, her captains were exchanged for doctors, and her crew for nurses. She was, in fact, converted into an asylum for “the sick seamen of all nations.” An interesting spectacle she still appeared, and when the outside of this floating hospital suggested an inspection of the interior, a boat speedily placed the visitor upon a staircase leading from the water’s edge to the upper deck. “We mounted the ladder with a firm step,” says a distinguished writer; “the great, high black-and-white sides seemed so familiar once more. The ports were open; but we missed the grim black gun-muzzles which protrude so calmly from your active service vessels, and which usually, with their brilliant polish, and their ornate ‘tompions’ corking them neatly, look as if they were meant only for ornament. One’s first sensation on reaching the deck was of a white bareness—it seemed so odd to be in a ship without rigging; but glancing around, we observed what a clear, broad promenade it made—how clean and orderly everything was. The first hospital feature presented itself, in two or three ‘convalescents,’ white caps covering them, and the inevitable pipe soothing their returning vigour. We moved first aft, and visited the office where the ship’s books are kept. There a curiosity of historical interest was shown to us—a piece of glass from a cabin skylight of the *Dreadnought* of old days, scrawled over with the names of those officers who were in her at Trafalgar. A curious thing to reflect on! This quiet old *Dreadnought*, whose fighting days are all over—sans guns, sans hot, sans shells, sans everything—did fight at Trafalgar, under Captain Conne—did figure as one of the hindmost ships in the lee column, which Collingwood led—went into action about two in the afternoon, and captured the *San Juan* in fifteen minutes.”

The total number of patients which had been received on board the *Dreadnought* in twenty years was 63,345. Of these the British make up about 50,000. The Norwegians and Swedes are the next in point of number; after these come Prussians, East and West Indians, and Americans; then Germans, Russians, Danes, Italians, and Portuguese; then Dutchmen, Spaniards, and Africans. The list, too, comprises 182 South Sea Islanders, 16 Turks, and 38 Chinese, besides 181 “born at sea.” From all parts of the globe, these poor fellows came to the *Dreadnought*—mankind has a family resemblance in disease, which, in spite of their fightings, makes them brothers in pain. There, within the bulwarks originally built for the purpose of smashing mankind at large, they were tenderly doctored and nursed, and flannelled and gruelled, and almost petted, till they became once more able-bodied.

## THE NEW MILITARY COSTUMES.

### THE RIFLES.

The new dress of the Rifles consists of a tunic in place of the old coat. The new one is of a much better shape than the old one. Cloth shoulder-straps, with the number of the battalion on them, have been substituted for the epaulettes, which will of course lessen the weight of the soldier. The 60th Rifles have had the same dress appointed for them. The undress jacket of the Rifles has been much improved, having been made longer and looser than hitherto. A very great improvement has been made in the shako; the one formerly in use was a heavy, clumsy affair, whilst the new one is sloped at the back, and is much lighter.

### THE HIGHLANDERS.

The Highlanders have had but little alteration made in their attire—but that little is certainly a great improvement; for their old coat (with a most absurd little tail about three inches long) has been discontinued in favour of a coat with a short skirt, which will certainly make the wearer

feel warmer and more comfortable. Their epaulettes (very heavy and ugly appendages) have been succeeded by plain cloth shoulder-straps, with the number of the regiment worked on them; this change will much decrease the weight to the soldier. A change for the better has been made in their head-dresses, for their bonnets have been reduced in size; and the Highland Light Infantry have also had their shakos made smaller,

thereby decreasing the weight of them considerably. The buttons on their coat have the novelty of being diamond shaped. The kilt is still retained, but the folds hang more close to the legs, which must make the wearer feel warmer. The undress jacket has been made looser than formerly; and the belts have undergone the same alteration as those of the other infantry regiments.



THE NEW FASHIONS.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



60TH RIFLES:  
SERGEANT, FULL DRESS. CORPORAL, UNDRRESS; OFFICER, FULL DRESS; OFFICER, UNDRRESS; SERGEANT, FULL DRESS. CORPORAL, UNDRRESS.

RIFLE BRIGADE:

42ND HIGHLANDERS:  
OFFICER, FULL DRESS. CORPORAL, UNDRRESS.

93RD HIGHLANDERS:  
OFFICER, FULL DRESS.

71ST HIGHLANDERS:  
OFFICER, FULL DRESS.

THE NEW COSTUMES OF THE RIFLES AND HIGHLANDERS.—(FROM A SKETCH BY SERGEANT W. DRUMMOND.)



## THE NEW FASHIONS.

There is a decided tendency to diminish the amplitude of skirts—or, more accurately speaking, to modify that aggravated amplitude which is produced by crinoline, and a superabundance of flounces. In the actual fulness of dresses there is really no diminution; on the contrary, they are now fuller than heretofore; but the fulness is allowed to flow in easy modulating folds, instead of being expanded by a stiff under frame-work, the effect of which is to give to a lady's figure from the waist downwards the form of a bell.

In outdoor dress, flounces will be less general than they have been for some time past. They will be superseded by various kinds of ornaments, disposed, for the most part, longitudinally from the edge of the skirt to the waist. To the trimmings in this style the Paris modistes give the name of *mountants*. They may be made of black or coloured velvet: if of the latter, the velvet should be of the same hue, but a shade darker than that of the dress. Ruches of ribbons, various kinds of *passementerie*, and fancy buttons, may also be very effectively employed in trimming silk dresses in this new style.

The Carnival has been unusually gay this year in Paris, and the fancy dress balls given on the occasion have been remarkably brilliant. At one of these entertainments, given by the Princess Mathilde, the Emperor and Empress were present. The costume worn by the Empress was so fanciful and poetic that it excited general admiration. Her Majesty, who appeared as the allegorical representative of "Night," wore a costume consisting of several jupes of black gauze, thickly bespangled with small silver stars. A veil of sombre hue and transparent texture, and a sardine crown of magnificent diamonds, completed this much-admired costume. Under the gauze jupes there were bands of swanstown, intended to represent snow,—whence it must be inferred that her Majesty intended to personate a winter's night. This idea was further carried out by icicles of diamonds, which were suspended round the top of the corsage and from the edges of her Majesty's robe.

Countess Walewski, at her own fancy ball, appeared as "Diana." Her beautiful costume consisted of a hantress's tunic of pale blue, gathered on the shoulders by rich agraffes of turquoise and diamonds. The Countess wore powder, and in front of her forehead was a splendid diamond crescent.

At the same ball a lady appeared in a very fanciful *travestissement*, representing the "Queen of Clubs." The dress consisted of two jupes; the lower one being of black satin, figured with clubs of black velvet. The upper jupe was of cerise-colour taffety, edged with clubs figured in gold lacet. The corsage was of black velvet, and the bosom was covered by a net of gold lacet over white silk. The basque of the corsage was edged by a band of black velvet and a row of clubs in gold lacet. The necklace was very pretty, consisting of clubs of black enamel in gold setting. At the back of the head was fastened a long veil of white tulle, figured all over with small clubs, wrought in gold and black chenille. The stockings were of cerise-colour silk, and the shoes of black satin with gold buckles. The wearer of this novel and fanciful costume carried in her hand a fan of black crape, figured with very small gold clubs.

Our illustrations represent two very elegant ball dresses. The robe partially seen in the figure with the bournous, is of white tulle, and it has three broad flounces embroidered in a wreath pattern with coloured floss silk. The bournous presents a striking novelty. It is made of rich silk, manufactured for the purpose, in broad lustrous stripes of green, orange, and crimson. It is lined with white curled plush, and trimmed with crimson silk tassels. The head-dress consists of a superb wreath of magnolias made of velvet, the flowers red, and the foliage in shades of green. White satin shoes.

The dress shown in the other figure is of white sprigged gauze, over a slip of white satin. It has two skirts, each trimmed with a broad band of pink crape lisse, crossed with narrow white ribbon, disposed in a lozenge pattern. The corsage has a berthe with three rows of white blonde, and the sleeves are trimmed to correspond. In the centre of the corsage is a bouquet of roses, without leaves. The wreath which encircles the head, is likewise composed of roses without foliage, and behind each ear there is a full bouquet of the same flowers.

## LAW AND CRIME.

The subject of our Poor law system, and the administration of relief at our workhouses, has been prominently, and almost continuously, brought before the public for some months past. We have had women flogged at Marylebone; a fearful sketch by Charles Dickens of the wretches huddled up, throughout a bitter night, upon the steps of Whitechapel Workhouse; the remonstrances of the unemployed against being compelled to perform prison labour for a pauper's crust; the Lord Mayor's unexpected visit to the miserable, bare stables appropriated to the casual poor, and the opportunity of which he availed himself of contrasting these with the comfortable beds allotted in Holloway Jail to the criminals. We have seen every day, for so long that the accustomed eye glides uninterested over the oft-repeated announcement, the application of the destitute pauper, turned away from relief by the parish authorities, to the magistrate, who sends an officer to remove him and to require the admission of the claimant. We know how the officer is almost invariably repulsed with rudeness, until his worship arms him with a threat, which at once induces compliance. We have seen to what class of men the comfort of the indigent and aged, of the orphan and the destitute, are confided, at that mockery of a public meeting lately held at St. George's, Hanover Square, where the parochial authorities howled, stamped, yelled, and hooted like the lowest frequenters of a penny theatre, at the proposition to establish a free public library. We have read of cases in which unfortunates have had recourse even to suicide; many prefer homeless wandering and ultimate starvation, to the relief offered within the wall of the Union. But never, by any chance, has the matter of workhouses been brought before us in any way calculated to awaken other feelings than those of shame and indignation. The following is the latest development of the system:—On Saturday last, a Mr. Martin, well known for his exertions on behalf of the suffering poor, attended before Mr. Hammill, at Worship Street, accompanied by a decrepit old man of nearly eighty years of age. It appears that by great exertion, Mr. Martin had, about six weeks since, obtained the admission into Whitechapel workhouse of this poor old creature, who had previously gained an honest livelihood in the parish for sixty years. On Wednesday last, however, the old man was turned out into the streets, without any reason assigned, by the so-called guardians of the poor. Mr. Martin applied to the Poor-Law Commissioners upon the subject, and received a long, off-hand, impertinent letter, in the usual Circumlocution Office style, signed "Courtenay, Secretary." Here, unless the authorities choose to act upon Mr. Hammill's recommendation to re-admit the old man, the matter rests for the present. It may be added that Mr. Martin mentioned that the parochial authorities have, since their exposure by Mr. Dickens, caused a notice to be exhibited, which announces the closing of the casual ward altogether. This is, truly, the way to avoid unnecessary trouble in answering claimants. Meanwhile, there seems but little prospect of amendment either of the poor-law or its administration. And yet, could the truth be known, England would probably be found to be the most truly benevolent country in the world. The spontaneous charity of our middling and wealthy classes would alone be ample, could it but be judiciously collected and applied, to support the needy and the destitute.

The "Law Times" reports an application at Judge's Chambers, before Mr. Justice Crowder, to remove a judgment of a County Court, in an action for a claim exceeding £20, into the superior Court, in order that a *copias* might issue upon it. In support of the application, it was shown that the expense of a judgment summons, hearing, and warrant in such a case would exceed in a County Court the costs of an execution in the superior Court, at which fact Mr. Justice Crowder is reported to have expressed some surprise. In point of promptitude, moreover, there can be no comparison between the two processes. In the County Court a judgment summons is necessary, which must be personally served, and is returnable at some future period, arbitrarily fixed. When the warrant issues, and is delivered to the bailiffs, they may, perhaps, arrest the defendant at their convenience, as, possibly, they sometimes do. Those only who have made use of an execution of a County Court as a last resource for recovering

their claims, can speak as to the general activity evinced by its officers, or, on the other hand, testify to their dilatoriness and "impressibility" by the defendant. In the case to which we have alluded the application was granted, under the 49th section of the County Courts Amendment Act.

Three miserable gentlemen of fortune, keeping hounds, were tried last week at Chelmsford for an offence of which we have some months since given the details. They had made a baker drunk, and then, after ruddling his body with red ochre, caused him to be wheeled home, insensible, in a wheelbarrow, with his head hanging over the side. The man died of apoplexy, as a natural consequence, and a verdict of manslaughter was returned against the gentlemen. The Grand Jury ignored the bill for the felony, and the defendants were tried for a common assault only. Two of them bore the name of Hood—a curious coincidence, which affords a ready means of making several appropriate and sarcastic jests to those who admire that style of intellectual exercise. They were allowed, until a verdict of guilty was returned, to stand on the floor of the court, instead of in the dock. Why this delicate consideration was shown to the fellows is at present known to no living man. The judge can scarcely have allowed it from sympathy with the offenders, for he expressly told them, that, though they might consider imprisonment a disgrace and degradation, it appeared to him not at all equal to the degradation they had brought upon themselves by their conduct in this transaction. He then sentenced each of them to one month's imprisonment in the common goal of the county. It is but right to add, however, for the information may probably be conveyed to a quarter in which it may be serviceable, that the baker's widow has clearly a right of action against those whose stupid brutality occasioned her husband's death.

The celebrated action of Davison v. Duncan (for libel in publishing a report of a public meeting), which caused so much alarm among newspaper proprietors, has just been decided, and in a manner which has proved that alarm to be as groundless as we had anticipated. It will perhaps be remembered that we predicted, as the probable end of the case, that defendant's attorney would have to change a halfpenny in order to defray the damages. This has been justified by the jury returning a verdict for the plaintiff—damages one farthing. The presiding Judge refused to certify that the libel was malicious, so that plaintiff will have to pay his own costs, towards which the amount awarded will not be of much assistance. It is to be regretted, nevertheless, in such cases as this, where the judge and jury so signally mark their disapprobation of the conduct of the plaintiff in bringing the action before them, and where the verdict implies that he had no substantial ground for so doing, that the judge should not have power to certify the other way, and entitle the defendant to those expenses which he has been forced to incur, with so little reason upon the other side.

One of the most curious of recent trials has just come off at Oxford. The plaintiff is described concisely as a defaulter on the turf—the defendant as a quack doctor practising in a double-barrelled fashion as La Murt, and Curtis and Co., and also furthering the interests of humanity by bill discounting, and connection with sporting transactions. The party under whom the plaintiff claimed his title to the subject of the action, was a nobleman's son, since absconded; the subject was a horse formerly the property of William Palmer, who was hanged. The plaintiff had obtained a start in life by winning ten thousand pounds of a wealthy young booby, in a country public-house, at "Blind Hokey," of all intellectual and exciting diversions! The money appears to have done no more good to him than its former proprietor, for he shortly after applied to the Insolvent Court, his petition being dismissed—upon technical grounds, of course. The agent employed in the transaction, who had received a cheque from plaintiff for the price of the animal, on behalf of his patron and employer, the absconding young sporting gentleman, was a crossing sweeper, who, when in the witness-box, made use of a gold eye-glass, quite in the regular way. Such are the companions, such the pastimes of our sporting swells, such the class of men whom their follies enable to live, and such the end of fortunes wrenched from them by their associates at "Blind Hokey," or on the turf! We had omitted to mention that the verdict in the case mentioned was for the plaintiff, but this fact may probably not interest the reader much.

## BREACH OF PROMISE OF MARRIAGE.

MISS JANE BELL is a milliner in somewhat extensive business at Sunderland. Mr. John Jackson is a miller residing in that town. Mr. Jackson paid court to Miss Bell for a long time, and, according to the testimony of witnesses in the action for breach of promise which we are now reporting, the couple seemed to proceed in a manner which indicated approaching matrimony. However, there came an end to all this; and hence the action, which chiefly rested upon certain poetical letters, which, considering the age of the lovers (plaintiff thirty-four and defendant thirty) created some laughter in the overcrowded court.

The first letter contained an invitation to a party, in this wise:—

"I wish you would come back and stay  
For I have been quite sad ever since you went away  
The loss of you I do deplore  
For I never fell in with your equal before.—J. J."

"I am going up the Town tonight  
to practice for the Ball  
I wish you had been here to go with me  
for without you I will not enjoy it at all  
I remain yours Respectfully—JOHN JACKSON."

Another letter was more poetic:—  
"Dear Miss Bell,—I yesterday received from you a most affectionate and delightful note to me for as you stole my heart it is a great blessing to me to have got yours in return a heart more valuable than all earthly treasures to me. You perhaps think me a general lover so I am to a certain extent for as I did not place my affections on any one particular I think that I have been loving them all in general as I never thought of trying to get a partner before my circumstances were sufficiently prosperous to justify me in doing the same (which time I think has arrived to vixen with you as my partner. I believe I should be both delighted and happy for I love and esteem you with all my heart and would soon forget all others for the sake of you you are every way the girl my heart desires but one that is religion you being a protestant and I am catholic and although I am not so strict as some people I have a very great regard for my Religion above all things in this world and you being a strong minded girl will no doubt have the same regard for yours, that I believe is the only point in which we might not agree although neither of us would be arbitrary one might want the other to go along with them in what they considered to be the broad road that leads to damnation and if you went to church I could not be happy without I accompanied you, whereas our interests would by different ways which is a greatest evil under the sun to us, but I hope not a fixer."

The third letter is entirely of a poetic character:—  
"Half a match to you I send.  
Upon you it does depend  
When my single life shall end . . . .  
The other half match you will me send.  
Then my miseries will be at an end . . . .  
There is nothing I wish for on earth  
But to share your troubles and mirth  
For of all the girls from east to west,  
Dear Miss Jane, I love you best.  
I hope, Miss Bell, you will not be shy,  
But that along with me the yoke you'll try."

The miller's "unlettered muse" takes up a similar strain in the fifth letter:—  
"It is in vain for me to try  
To answer yours again,  
It is so beautiful and sublime,  
Coming from a creature so divine.  
I cannot refrain from expressing my admiration,  
For there is not such another girl in the nation."

In another letter he hoped to "commemorate the blessings of peace" in her company; but in the last communication, which was relied upon by the plaintiff's counsel as of great importance, he seemed to have been misbehaving himself, for he writes to say:—

"I am not the vile villain you supposed me to be, or at least you gave me good reasons to conclude that you considered me one, for you pitched into me effectively and unmercifully. I tell you sufficient to cool the zeal of any man. If I was not a rascal in your eye you made me one in my own since which time I have considered the subject solidly over in my mind and I came to the conclusion that you considered my disposition bad and unworthy and that you are quite arbitrary and to decide that we are of different Religions therefore I considered it wisdom to forget the acquaintance whatever effort it might cost. Although I tried I could not make free, for I always felt under a restraint when in your presence. This proceeded from me being conscious of having lowered myself in your estimation also that you put me down so low that I cannot come up again."

So from you I must part  
I make the sacrifice from my heart  
So farewell Miss Bell alone I'll dwell."

It was contended, for the defendant, that these letters were mere valentines. Verdict for the plaintiff; damages £50.

## ATTEMPT TO MURDER IN A RAILWAY CARRIAGE.

MR. ALFRED BUCKLER, a linendraper's assistant, was travelling on the North London Railway. On reaching Camden station, his fellow-passengers in the compartment in which he sat, alighted, and he was left alone in the carriage. Just as the train was about to continue its course to Hampstead Road station, a rough-looking young fellow, wearing a cap, looked through the window of the carriage, got in, and sat down immediately in front of Mr. Buckler. The new comer asked what time it was; Mr. Buckler answered the question, returned his watch to his pocket, and soon after bent forward out of the window. At this moment the fellow plunged a knife into the left side of his neck, within half an inch of the carotid artery. Before Mr. Buckler could recover himself, he was again stabbed under the arm. He received another stab in the lower part of the arm, and then succeeded in closing with the ruffian. At length Mr. Buckler overpowered the assassin, holding him down on the floor of the carriage. In a minute or so the train came up to Hampstead Road station, and the cries of "murder" brought several of the passengers and the company's servants to the carriage. The door being opened, Mr. Buckler was seen still holding down his assailant. The ruffian was at once secured. The knife, which was a new one, with a blade some five inches long, and of the rude kind used in slaughter-houses, was found in his hand.

When brought before a magistrate, the prisoner (who gave his name as Webb) declared that Mr. Buckler was the aggressor. He said—"I was in the carriage, and asked the gentleman what o'clock it was. He told me it was twenty minutes past eight. I told him that his watch, which he had pulled out, was too slow. We had some words, when he struck me. I struck him. He pulled out his knife, saying that he would have my life. I had a struggle with him, and got the knife out of his hand. I called for help, and he called out 'Murder.' On the train stopping he gave me into custody for attempting to take his life." Webb was remanded. The wound in Mr. Buckler's neck is about an inch long, and nearly an inch deep, and very near the carotid artery. He is not thought to be in danger.

## POLICE.

STABBING BY A BOY OF FOURTEEN.—Michael Sullivan, a boy of fourteen met a mat-maker, in Swan Street, Dover Road, and commenced abusing him. The mat-maker, finding it difficult to get rid of the boy, dealt him a buffet on the face. However, just as he was about to take up his mats, Sullivan plucked a large knife into his back, between the shoulders, where he left it. This was the account given before a magistrate by the prosecutor. But two young men who worked with the prosecutor, said, that after the latter had struck the lad a heavy blow across the face, he threw the knife, which he happened to have in his hand, at the prosecutor, and it stuck in his back. The prisoner was committed for trial.

AN EARLY JAIL BIRD.—Thomas Bedford and William Brager, the one fifteen and the other thirteen years of age, were charged at Worship Street with stealing money from the shop of a chemist in Stepney. William Payne, a shoemaker, saw the prisoners peeping into the shop, which Brager then entered. Presently he came out, and, passing something to his companion, ran off. Payne pursued and stopped Brager, who boldly observed, holding out a handful of silver, "Don't take me back—let us square it." The proposal was rejected, and Bedford was also taken into custody.

A policeman deposed to having found 41s. 6d. upon the boys, pretty equally divided.

Brager (boastfully)—I took it all, sir, and gave him some! Guilty, sir!  
Mr. D'Eyncourt—Do you wish to be tried here, or go before a jury?  
Brager—Tried by you, sir.

Bedford—Same here, sir.

The Magistrate accordingly sent Bedford to prison for six months, and sentenced Brager to three months' imprisonment, and to be well whipped. Master Brager looked very seriously at the Magistrate on hearing that he was to be flogged.

SOMEWHAT REFRACTORY.—In consequence of repeated acts of disorder, Alice Beagley, an inmate of a workhouse at Chelsea, was removed to the refractory cell. Shortly afterwards a great noise was heard in the cell, and it was discovered that defendant had contrived to break a pane of glass, half-an-inch thick, and had thrown her dinner plate and tin cup through the aperture. In about two hours afterwards, to the master's great surprise, he found the girl walking leisurely across one of the yards. It was found that she had taken the bus or bone out of her stays, and with this had dislodged some bricks; she then ascended to the broken window, and squeezing herself through, dropped into the space beneath, and then sealed the wall which separated it from the yard. She was afterwards very violent and abusive; and was in consequence taken before the police magistrate, at Westminster, who sentenced her to seven days' imprisonment with hard labour.

BEGGING LETTERS.—The old man calling himself Williams, who stands charged with obtaining charitable contributions from Lord Rokeby, by false pretences, has been brought before the Bow Street magistrate for final examination. He stated that he was unable to produce the Mrs. Duke, on whom he had relied for his defence, excepting by criminalising another person, which he refused to do; and he therefore threw himself on the mercy of the court, and besought the magistrate to consider his years and the fact of his having disease of the heart. He was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

## CENTRAL CRIMINAL COURT.

THE CITY BANK FRAUDS.—The trial of James Townsend Seward and James Anderson for the celebrated frauds on the City and other banks took place at the Central Criminal Court on Thursday week, before the Chief Baron and Mr. Baron Bramwell. The prisoners, who were not defended, were found guilty, and on the following day the Lord Chief Baron sentenced them to transportation for life, not heeding a recommendation by Sir Frederick Thesiger, on the part of the Bankers' Association, who were the prosecutors, that Anderson should be regarded with some leniency, on the ground that he was a mere tool of Seward.

THE ASSAULT BY A POST-OFFICE EMPLOYEE.—Edwin Hammond surrendered at the Central Criminal Court to take his trial for the manslaughter of Richard Cottrell. On the night of the 31st of January, Cottrell and a friend were passing King's Cross, when Hammond and two other men came up and assaulted them. The prisoner knocked the deceased down, and his head coming upon the kerb, his skull was fractured, from the effects of which he died a week afterwards. Hammond was found guilty, and sentenced to one month's imprisonment.

JOHN PAUL AGAIN.—John Paul and Joseph William Hawes were charged at the Central Criminal Court, the former with having feloniously uttered a receipt for £290, knowing it to have been forged; and the latter with having forged the same instrument, with intent to defraud the Guardians of the Poor of the City of London Union. This charge arose out of the frauds and forgeries committed by Paul on the Union, to which he was clerk. It will be recollected that he was convicted at the last session of those felonies, and was sentenced to fourteen years' transportation. He now appeared in his prison dress, and looked extremely dejected and wretched. The case was watched on his behalf, but no defence was made. The defence for Hawes was that he had acted as the tool of Paul, and did not know he was doing wrong. The jury acquitted him, and found Paul guilty. No further sentence was passed on him, and he was simply remitted back to prison.

ASSAULT BY A PHYSICIAN.—Dr. James Mitchell Wynne, a physician, and Thomas Tinney, his servant, surrendered at the Central Criminal Court to take their trial upon an indictment which charged them with feloniously cutting and wounding Mark Benjamin Benham, on the 29th of last December. The quarrel arose out of some dispute relative to the prosecutor's occupancy of some rooms in Dr. Wynne's house; but our readers were placed in full possession of the facts at the time the case was before the police magistrate. The defence was that Mr. Benham had grossly insulted Dr. Wynne; that a scuffle took place, in which the Doctor was forced to defend himself; that his servant assisted him; that the prosecutor wished, in order to forward his own views, to get the Doctor within the meshes of the law; and that the assaults had been greatly exaggerated. Several witnesses testified to Dr. Wynne's mild and gentleman-like manners; and the jury acquitted both the accused.

ASSAULT BY A PHOTOGRAPHER.—VERDICT OF MANSLAUGHTER.—The inquiry in reference to the death of Eliza Burn was concluded at the London Hospital on Saturday. It will be remembered that the deceased had gone with another woman to the shop of a photographer named Clerk, in the Commercial Road, that a dispute arose in which Clerk struck deceased on the head with a hammer, and that she died a few days afterwards. The evidence on the post-mortem examination having been received, the jury returned a verdict of "Manslaughter" against Clerk.

CONVICTION OF ELIZA TREMAINE, AT LEEDS.—On Saturday morning, at the Leeds Quarter Sessions, Mary Eliza Tremaine, alias Kellaway, alias Field, was charged with stealing a pair of scissors, handkerchief, purse, and some money, from John Clough, landlord of the Bridge Inn, Ferry-bridge, near Durham. The prisoner went to the prosecutor's house in December last, giving her name as Mary Eliza Teale, and on the evening of her arrival informed him, under an oath of secrecy, that she had escaped from a convent in France, and had spent all her money in travelling, but was possessed of landed property in Oxfordshire, worth £1,400 a year. She stayed some days at the Bridge Inn, and promised Mr. Clough, in return for his kindness to her, a "deed of gift" for £120 a year. With the view of having it "completed," he accompanied her to Leeds, from which place he went, by her request, to Headingly in search of her uncle. On his return she was not to be found, except by the aid of the police, who discovered her in a cottage, to which she had obtained access by pretences similar to those by which she imposed upon Clough. When she was searched, the stolen property was found on her. The jury found her guilty; and the Recorder, observing that she had been convicted of similar frauds at Liverpool in 1848, at Derby in 1851, at Northallerton in 1854, at Oxford in 1855, and subsequently at Reading, sentenced her to penal servitude for six years.



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